

WATERWAY TO WALES

COUNTRY LIFE

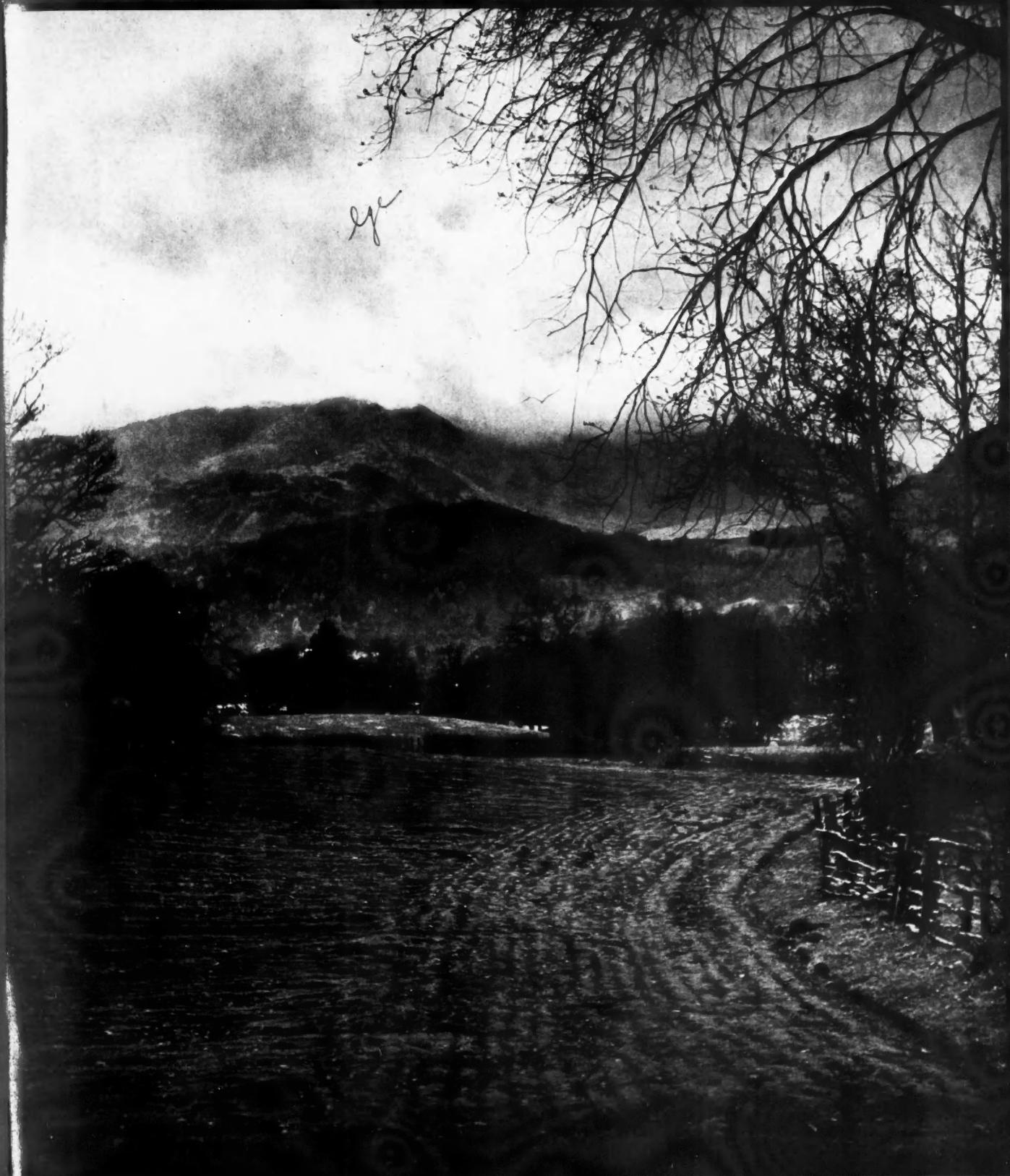
Editorial Office

NOVEMBER 21, 1947

Editorial Office

TWO SHILLINGS

EF



AUTUMN IN THE LAKE DISTRICT

G. F. Allen

AUCTIONS

ANTIQUE OR MODERN (advantageous to Executors, Trustees and Private Owners). **VERY GOOD PRICES ASSURED** for Antique and Modern Household Furniture, Silver, Jewellery, Pictures, Books, Porcelain, etc., at the weekly Auction Sales of PHILLIPS, SON & NEALE, 7, Bleheim Street, New Bond Street (established 1793). Sales of the above property can also be promptly arranged by private treaty. Tel.: Mayfair 2424. Ref. W.T.L. Auction announcements, *Daily Telegraph* every Monday, *The Times* every Tuesday.

W & F. C. BONHAM & SONS, LTD. (established 1793) hold Sales by Auction every Tuesday and Thursday at 11 o'clock of Antique and Modern Household Furniture, Silver Plate, Porcelain, China, Objets d'Art, Carpets and miscellanea, at their spacious Galleries at Knightsbridge Halls, 213-217 and 223-229, Knightsbridge, S.W.1. Tel.: Ken. 2909, 4887, 4888.

PERSONAL

ADVERTISER (and wife) would like to spend a part of Christmas holidays in private house or hotel where really good opportunity to shoot duck and geese.—Box 150.

EX-OFFICER offers services any capacity return for reasonable remuneration and accommodation. Wife competent Secretary.—Box 146.

GENTLEMAN (33), married, seeks partnership with established farmer; southern counties or Surrey-Sussex preferred. Farming experience: able to invest capital.—Box 133.

GENTLEMAN desires to contact owner of large country house within easy reach of a country town with a view to taking over house for residential suites with central catering. Owner to take up part interest in project and continue to live in house if so desired.—Box 139.

HAND-MADE POTTERY for the house and garden on show at Elizabeth Eaton, Ltd., 61, Elizabeth Street, London, S.W.1, from November 21. Prices from 6s upwards.

LADY, keen gardener, small country house, Wales, would like to hear of another, or married couple, who would share expenses, and help with production, central heating and country fare.—Box 141.

MAYFAIR, 37, Hill Street, W.1. Furnished accommodation. Central heating; all amenities.—Apply, MANAGERESS. GPO. 2754.

MR. & MRS. VERNON GITTINS invite their clients and friends to visit Llanrhidian Hall, Ruthin, close to Ruthin Castle in the beautiful Vale of Clwyd (20 miles from Chester) where they have a very interesting collection of antique and decorative furniture.

OPENING shortly, Surrey hills, easy reach of London. Rest Home, 8-12 gns. including medical attention. Bookings now.—Box 134.

SUSSEX. Rosemead Riding School at Poling Priory, Arundel. Excellent hacking on Downs. Qualified tuition if required. Residential accommodation. Ideal family holidays. Convenient sea, 7 miles Worthing.—Proprietor: S.L.D.P. R. S. WILLIAMS. Tel.: Arundel 3114.

MISCELLANEOUS

AEROPLANES. R. K. Dundas, Ltd., of the Airport, Portsmouth, and 4, St. James's Street, London, S.W.1 (Whitechapel 2648) are the leading dealers in aircraft at home and overseas and can be consulted by all intending owners and operators on all aeronautical matters. Distributors of Britain's cheapest and best light aeroplanes—the Auster "Autocrat." £1.585.

ALLISON BOND, LTD., offer a wide range of Floor Coverings, Carpets, Rugs, Art Felts, Rubber and Cork. Planning, making and laying included if required. Write, 'phone or call for particulars and prices to: 21, Connaught Street, London, W.2. AMBassadeur 3131.

ARCHERY. When buying new equipment, remember: Shoot better with JAQUES modern equipment. Hand-made by craftsmen—JOHN JAQUES & SON, LTD., makers of fine Sports and Games Equipment since 1795. Thornton Heath, Surrey.

AIRBORNE JACKETS. Brand new, windproof and waterproof, adjustable waistband, 4 flap pockets, camouflage design. Ideal for farmers and all outdoor workers, cyclists, etc. Available in all sizes. Coupon free. Price 15/- each post free.—GOVERNMENT SURPLUS SUPPLIES, M.O. Dept., Tower Court, London, W.C.2.

FIELD SPORTS." The sporting publication that is different. Over 30 unusual angle articles by well-known writers on hunting, shooting, fishing, badging, otter hunting, bird life and natural history, etc. Illustrated. Volume VI available from station bookstalls, through newsagents or 1/6 post free from WATMOUGH'S, LTD., 5, Idle, Bradford.

CARPETS taken up, cleaned, repaired and relaid—G. A. SAWYER, LTD., Complete Furnishers of Private Houses, Clubs and Hotels, 69, Upper Berkeley Street, Paddington 4133.

CLEAN-ALL" Service. Private residences, hotels, clubs, schools, etc., thoroughly cleaned throughout. Walls, woodwork, carpets, and furniture included. Wood flooring re-surfaced and polished. London or provinces.—HOUSEHOLD AND INDUSTRIAL CLEANING CO., LTD., 32 Grosvenor Gardens, Mews North, S.W.1. Sloane 1050.

COUPON ECONOMY. Fabric Shoes re-covered. Ladies' own materials from 15/-—M. A. GRAVE, 9, Dean Street, Soho, London, W.1.

CREOSOTE, 40 gallons 60/- delivered in free drum. Refined Tar (needs heating), 65/-; Barn Tar (can be applied cold), 70/-—FRANK COOPERS, Canterbury.

DOG-CARE. The "A1 Dog Book" is a miniature encyclopaedia of the subject. Every dog-owner should send for a copy (18 post free), to MR. JOHNS, Advice Bureau, National Canine Defence League, 8, Clifford Street, London, W.1.

FINE JEWELLERY of all types wanted for cash.—HARRODS LTD., London, S.W.1. Sloane 1234.

WILLIAM OGDEN, Court Jeweller, 13, Bruton Street, Berkeley Square, W.1, offers expert advice on the Buying, Selling and Valuation of FINE JEWELS. One of the World's greatest Authorities. Mayfair 2511-2512.

COUNTRY LIFE—NOVEMBER 21, 1947

CLASSIFIED ANNOUNCEMENTS

Per line, Private 3/-; Trade 4/-; (minimum 3 lines). Box Fee 1/6

MISCELLANEOUS

ESTATE MACHINERY, Motor Mowers, Scythes, Garden Tractors, etc., new or reconditioned. Sales. Also bought for repair.—Write, FARM-FITTERS, LTD., Great Missenden, Bucks.

GAME. A fair price is assured for all shoots offered to MAC FISHERIES. Consult the nearest local Branch Manager, or write "R.C." Mac Fisheries, 27-30, Pudding Lane, London, E.C.3.

HARRIS TWEED, guaranteed hand-woven. Men's Overcoats, Sports Jackets and Suits, and Ladies' Coats and Costumes again being made specially to your measures by the famous Sartor tailors. The "Sartex" (regd.) Raincoats for men and women are being made again. We invite our customers—old and new—to write for copies of the latest Style Books. Sartor new ranges of materials. Patterns now ready. Full pre-war service. Write now for your copies of the Style Books and Measurement Form to: SARTOR, Dept. B.1, Sartor House, Derby Street, Manchester 8.

HOOPER, Motor Body Builders to H.M. The King. Officially appointed Rolls-Royce

retailers for nearly 40 years, welcome customers to call and inspect a large stock of carefully chosen low mileage secondhand Rolls-Royce.

GENTLEWOMAN wanted in country house as help to elderly couple. Light

duties only with practically no domestic work.

Staff kept. Assistance with correspondence and accounts desired. References required and given.—Box 122.

DELIGHTFUL lightly furnished semi-detached house, garden, garage, near buses, shops, trams, outskirts Leicester, offered rent free plus good salary in exchange for 6 hours' cook-house-keeping daily and knowledgeable gardening.

handyman help with modern home near. Mainly two in family, maid and gardener kept. Personal references, please.—Box 123.

GENTLEWOMAN wanted in country house as

helpful companion to elderly couple. Light

duties only with practically no domestic work.

Staff kept. Assistance with correspondence and accounts desired. References required and given.—Box 122.

WANTED immediately for Cotswold estate and

manor house, general estate man, good

knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, dry stone

work, painting and decorating. R.C. preferred.

Delightful modern cottage with all services.

Working son or daughter an advantage.—Box 127.

WANTED immediately for Cotswold estate and

manor house, general estate man, good

knowledge of carpentry, plumbing, dry stone

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Delightful modern cottage with all services.

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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. CII No. 2653

NOVEMBER 21, 1947

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

CASTLE COMBE MANOR, NEAR CHIPPENHAM

WITH $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE OF TROUT FISHING FROM BOTH BANKS

Additional fishing could be rented

Stone-built Cotswold residence standing 250 feet above sea level, in terraced pleasure gardens and parkland, and approached by a drive guarded by an entrance lodge.



Entrance and inner halls, 4 reception rooms, 6 principal and 5 secondary bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, day and night nurseries. Ample domestic offices and servants' flat. Main electric light and water. Central heating throughout. Independent hot-water system. Modern drainage. Stone garage and stable block.

Two cottages.



Beautiful terraced gardens which are a feature of the property, kitchen gardens, parkland and woods.

IN ALL ABOUT 25 ACRES. PRICE, £16,000 OR NEAR OFFER

Might be let unfurnished on lease. 2,000 acres of shooting can be rented if desired.

Sole Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (31,805)

CAMBERLEY

GOLF COURSE $\frac{1}{2}$ MILE, STATION 1 MILE. LONDON 29 MILES.

Occupying a well-chosen position about 300 feet up on sand and gravel soil facing south.

TUDOR-STYLE RESIDENCE

Built of brick with tiled roof and approached by a drive. Hall, 3 reception rooms, billiards room, 14 bed and dressing rooms, 4 bathrooms. Excellent domestic offices, including kitchen with "Aga" cooker. Company's electric light and water. Central heating. Telephone. Main drainage.



Stabling, garage for 6-8 cars.

Two cottages

each with 5 rooms and bathroom.

The gardens are surrounded on three sides by woods.

Hard and grass tennis courts. Dutch, Tudor and flower gardens.

ABOUT $7\frac{1}{2}$ ACRES

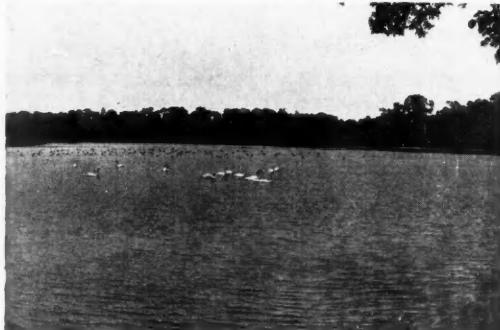
FOR SALE FREEHOLD

or Let Unfurnished

Agents: Messrs. CHANCELLOR & SON, 26, High Street, Camberley, and Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (42,007)

HAMPSHIRE, BETWEEN BASINGSTOKE AND FARNHAM

IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL, SPORTING AND COTTAGE PROPERTY, BEING THE REMAINING PORTIONS OF THE DOGMERSFIELD PARK ESTATE, 586 ACRES



including

A delightful woodland site of 91 acres

including an entrance lodge and

Dogmersfield Lake of 20 acres

Capital lodge with 27 acres

A compact block of farmland, being 304 acres of Dogmersfield Park.

A pair of attractive half-timbered cottages. Two other cottages and gardens.



A woodland and sporting site of 135 acres. Two useful sites with road frontages.

WITH VACANT POSSESSION OF SEVERAL LOTS

For Sale by Auction in Lots at an early date (unless previously sold privately).

Solicitors: Messrs. GLOVER & CO., 115, Park Street, W.1.

Auctioneers: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY, and Messrs. TOWNSEND GREEN & CO., Eagle House, 109-111, Jermyn Street, W.1. Particulars price 1/-.

Mayfair 3771
(10 lines)

20, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

Telegrams:
'Galleries, Wesdo, London.'



JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF

8, HANOVER ST., LONDON, W.1.

MAYFAIR 3316/7

CIRENCESTER, NORTHAMPTON, LEEDS, YEOVIL, CHICHESTER, CHESTER, NEWMARKET AND DUBLIN

For Sale Privately.

CAERNARVONSHIRE. PARK LODGE, DEGANWY

A SUPERBLY PLANNED MODERN RESIDENCE

Situated in an elevated position facing south-west with extensive views over a magnificent panorama.



FREEHOLD. WITH VACANT POSSESSION

Particulars from the Sole Agents: JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF, 25, Nicholas Street, Chester (Tel. 1348).

Auction, Monday, December 1

By order of the executors of Major J. E. Pearce, deceased.

DARTMOUTH

Brixham 4 miles, Torquay 13, London 228. G.W.R. Station five minutes' walk.

THE ATTRACTIVE SMALL FREEHOLD MARINE RESIDENCE KNOWN AS TOFT QUAY, KINGSWEAR

Containing 4 bedrooms, 2 boxrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 w.c.s., 2 sitting rooms, dining room, etc. Main services. Garage, small garden and steps to landing stage and, at low water, a strip of sand.

VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

Solicitors: GUSCOTTE, FOWLER & COX, 56, Ennismore Gardens, London, S.W.7. Auctioneers: JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF, Yeovil. Tel. 1066.

RADNORSHIRE

On the Herefordshire borders. Presteigne 4½ miles.

ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY KNOWN AS NEWCASTLE COURT ESTATE comprising a truly delightful Georgian Residence

well modernised and equipped and containing 11 bedrooms (6 with fitted basins), 4 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, lounge hall, sun parlour, cloakroom, offices with Aga cooker.

OWN ELECTRIC LIGHT AND WATER SUPPLY. CENTRAL HEATING. Cottage and lodge. Gardens and grounds, in all about 25½ ACRES

including valuable woodlands extending to about 17½ ACRES.

POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.
Agents: Messrs. JACKSON-STOPS, Castle Street, Cirencester (Tel. 3345).

Grosvenor 3121
(3 lines)

WINKWORTH & CO.

48, CURZON STREET, MAYFAIR, LONDON, W.1

SURREY

In a delightful situation high above sea level, facing due south with wide-reaching views. Two miles from excellent market town. London 40 mins. by fast trains.

A BEAUTIFUL MODERN GEORGIAN RESIDENCE



40 ACRES. Price £32,500

Highly recommended by WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon Street, W.1 (Gro. 3121).

LUXURIOUSLY EQUIPPED.
POLISHED FLOORS,
FITTED BASINS AND
WARDROBES.
CENTRAL HEATING.
MAIN SERVICES.

Ten bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms and fine sun loggia, model domestic offices.

Stabling, garage and 2 cottages. Walled kitchen garden, hard tennis court, pasture, arable and woodland, in all about

400 FEET FRONTRAGE TO HAMBLE RIVER

Seven miles from Southampton.

THE GEORGIAN MANOR STYLE RESIDENCE

Designed by Mr. Baillie Scott and built in 1923-4 of English red bricks.

Contains lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, 4 principal bedrooms and 3 dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 servants' bedrooms and bathroom, excellent domestic offices. All main services. Central heating and power points throughout.

Garages. Inexpensive terraced gardens. In all approximately 3½ ACRES.

Lovely gardens and grounds of about 4 ACRES with hard.



FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Sole Agents: JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF, 8, Hanover Street, W.1.

By direction of C. Bayliss Parkinson, Esq.

WITH VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION.

QUEDGELEY, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Gloucester 3½ miles. Cheltenham 13 miles. Bristol 35 miles. On an excellent bus route to Gloucester and Bristol.

THE ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD MODERN RESIDENCE "WOOLSTROP," QUEDGELEY

Six bed and dressing rooms, 2 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms. Company's electric light and water. Telephone. Garage and outbuildings. Attractive garden. Small paddock.

In all about 2½ ACRES

For Sale by Auction (unless previously sold privately) on Thursday, December 11, 1947, at 3 p.m., at the Lamb Hotel, Cheltenham, Glos.

Auctioneers: JACKSON-STOPS, Castle Street, Cirencester (Tel. 3345).

CARMARTHENSHIRE, WALES

In the valley of the River Cothi.

MODERN COUNTRY RESIDENCE

Five minutes' walk from village.

Four reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Stabling, garages. Cottage and small farmery. Delightful natural gardens.

In all about 26 ACRES together with about 4 miles of excellent trout and sewin fishing in the Rivers Cothi and Twrch.

FREEHOLD. WITH VACANT POSSESSION PRICE £6,000, to include the fishing.

Particulars from the Agents: JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF, 25, Nicholas Street, Chester (Tel. 1348).

BUCKS

Forty minutes by express rail from London. Delightful south view. 450 ft. above sea.

A BEAUTIFULLY FITTED MODERN REPRODUCTION OF AN EARLY ENGLISH MANOR HOUSE

WITH ALL MAIN SERVICES INSTALLED.
CENTRAL HEATING.
FITTED BASINS.

Eight best bedrooms (3 suites), 6 bathrooms, nursery wing, staff rooms, hall and 3 reception rooms. Garage and cottage. Squash and hard courts. Ample kitchen garden, farmland and woods; in all



37 ACRES. For sale privately now or by auction later.

Auctioneers: WINKWORTH & CO., 48, Curzon Street, London, W.1. (Gro. 3121)

KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY

ESSEX—SUFFOLK BORDERS

Extensive views over the Stour Valley and the Constable Country. Colchester 7 miles, Ipswich 12 miles.



Attractive old-fashioned House, equally suitable for a private residence or for institutional purposes.

Large hall, 4 reception rooms, modern offices, 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms. Central heating. Independent hot water. Main electricity and water. Modern drainage.

Substantial outbuildings suitable for conversion into additional accommodation.

Garage with flat above. Store rooms. Playroom.

Matured well-timbered grounds, spreading lawns, shrubberies, large orchard, kitchen garden, fine range of glasshouses, field and woodland.

TOTAL 9 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD. POSSESSION ON COMPLETION

Contents available if required.

Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (44,150)

LONDON 25 MILES

On main Bath Road (adjoining Maidenhead Thicket).

EMINENTLY SUITABLE FOR OFFICES, SCHOOL OR HOTEL

35-ROOMED GEORGIAN STYLE MANSION

(over 12,000 sq. ft. of floor space).

Central heating and fluorescent lighting throughout.

Private telephone exchange of 100 lines.

Main electricity and water. Modern drainage.

Stabling and garage block with 8 rooms over.

Lodge and 2 cottages. Swimming pool.

Well-maintained gardens including terrace, lawns, kitchen garden, woodland.

IN ALL ABOUT 25 ACRES

FOR SALE FREEHOLD WITH VACANT POSSESSION OF WHOLE

Sole Agents: Messrs. KNIGHT, FRANK & RUTLEY. (43,075)

Mayfair 3771
(10 lines)

20, HANOVER SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

Telegrams:
"Galleries, Wesso, London."

NICHOLAS

(Established 1882)

4, ALBANY COURT YARD, PICCADILLY W.1: 1, STATION ROAD, READING

Telegrams:
"Nichenyer, Picoy, London"
"Nicholas, Reading"

AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY.

LITTLE FARM, HIGHMOOR, OXON

Practically 500 ft. above sea level on the beautiful wooded Chilterns. Huntercombe Golf Course 2½ miles, Henley-on-Thames 5 miles, Reading 8 miles (to which buses pass within a few minutes' walk), Oxford 18 miles, London 38 miles.

43 Acres of undulating pasture with magnificent southern views

forming a wonderful site for the erection of a Country House.

(Permit granted by local authority 1946 still in force.)

Well laid out garden. Entrance drive with picturesque brick and tiled lodge.

Garage for 3 cars with man's rooms. Farmery.

MAIN WATER connected to entrance lodge, garage, farmery and land. MAIN ELECTRICITY PROMISED.

To be Sold by Auction on December 4, 1947 (or by private treaty meanwhile).

The land is let on a grazing tenancy, but possession can be arranged.

Orders to view, particulars and plan from the Sole Agents: Messrs. NICHOLAS, Reading and London.

TOTTENHAM COURT RD., W.1
(Euston 7000)

MAPLE & Co., LTD.

5, GRAFTON ST., MAYFAIR, W.1
(Regent 4685)

PORTLAND, BONNAR ROAD, SELSEY, SUSSEX

In a sought-after village, about 7 minutes from the sea, 8 miles from the old-world favourite town of Chichester, close to bus route thereto.

THE ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD MODERN RESIDENCE



Occupying a corner position and comprising panelled lounge hall, fine lounge, dining room, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, good kitchen, etc. Main services. Electric power points throughout. Telephone. Wood block floors to ground-floor rooms.

Garage for large car.

Sheltered and secluded garden, lawn and flower beds surrounded by high yew hedge.

To be offered for Sale by Public Auction at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, London, E.C.2, on December 10 next. (Offers to purchase privately beforehand are invited.)

Illustrated particulars and conditions of sale from the Solicitors: Messrs. DOD LONGSTAFF & FENWICK, 15, Berners Street, W.1. Auctioneers: MAPLE & Co., LTD., 5, Grafton Street, Mayfair, W.1 (Regent 4685) and Tottenham Court Road, W.1.

BUSHEY, HERTS

On high ground on the verge of the Green Belt. Easy access to City and West End.

THE ATTRACTIVE FREEHOLD RESIDENCE

MELROSE, 113, ALDENHAM ROAD

Lounge, dining room, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, tiled bathroom, maid's sitting room, good domestic offices.

Large garage.

Garden with fine matured trees.

ALL CO'S SERVICES.

MAIN DRAINAGE.

VACANT POSSESSION
ON COMPLETION.



To be offered for Sale by Public Auction at Winchester House, Old Broad Street, E.C.2, on January 7, 1948 (offers to purchase privately beforehand are invited).

Illustrated particulars and conditions of sale from the Solicitor: STANLEY W. HARRISON, Esq., Faircross House, High Street, Watford. Auctioneers: MAPLE & Co., LTD., 5, Grafton Street, Mayfair, W.1 (Regent 4685) and Tottenham Court Road, W.1.



HAMPTON & SONS

6, ARLINGTON STREET, ST. JAMES'S, S.W.1

Regent 8222 (15 lines)

Telegrams: "Selanet, Piccy, London"

SURREY

Eight miles from Hyde Park Corner. High. Gravel. Facing large open space.



Charming Reproduction TUDOR HOUSE

Galleried hall, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 dressing and 3 bathrooms, model offices. Two floors only.

Luxuriously appointed. Central heating.

Garage 2 large cars.

Delightful grounds 1 ACRE

Hard court.

FREEHOLD £20,000

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At the low disclosed reserve of £25,000.

Conveniently situated on the much favoured

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Dry, sandy soil. Nearly 200 ft. up with tree protection from prevailing winds.



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Picturesque freehold residence containing halls, 2 reception rooms, loggia, 9 bedrooms, nurseries, 2 bathrooms and offices. Garage and outbuildings.

Timber-belted gardens and grounds with kitchen garden, approximately about

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Between Ripon and Pateley Bridge.

A FINE HEAVILY TIMBERED SPORTING AND AGRICULTURAL ESTATE OF 1,757 ACRES

together with the sporting over a further 1,274 ACRES.

Nine farms. Smallholdings. Cottages. 128 acres woodland.

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including some of the best land in the county, with

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The grounds comprise pleasure gardens of 4 acres, park of 33 acres (at present let off), walled fruit garden.

TOTAL AREA
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with later additions in keeping, having beautiful half timbering and original paneling. Standing in its own grounds of 10 Acres with magnificent views. Six to 10 bedrooms, 3 rec., cloaks, 2 bath., sun lounge, domestic offices, cos., e.l., power and gas. Own water. Staff quarters in grounds. Outhouses.



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Easy to run. Facing south and approached from a private road.

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All main services. Large garage.

Matured gardens, attractively disposed, and having a fine variety of first-class fruit trees, in all

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In the heart of Exmoor, occupying a unique situation facing south and commanding extensive views

AN EXCEPTIONALLY ATTRACTIVE SMALL RESIDENTIAL, SPORTING and AGRICULTURAL ESTATE

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with 3 reception, 10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, attic rooms.

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Parklike grounds, ornamental gardens, bathing pool, pasture, etc.

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One mile of first-class fishing.

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Splendidly situated within convenient reach of Southampton and only a short distance from the New Forest.

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FOR SALE FREEHOLD, ONLY £7,000

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Delightfully situated in the centre of the Pytchley country.

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ADJOINING AN OLD-WORLD VILLAGE

Three reception rooms, 11-12 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Main electricity and drainage. Stabling.

Five cottages (two with possession).

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Well timbered matured gardens, kitchen garden, grassland, etc., in all

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Seven bedrooms, bathroom, lounge hall and 2 reception rooms. Excellent domestic office. Main services. Garage and outbuildings. Exquisite gardens extending to

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Freehold with Vacant Possession. £8,750

OVERLOOKING THE SUSSEX WEALD IN BEAUTIFUL SURROUNDINGS.
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A TRULY DELIGHTFUL COUNTRY RESIDENCE

Set on high ground over 600 ft. above sea level, and commanding glorious views.

Of mellow red brick with weathered tiled roof, the accommodation comprises 10 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception rooms, Excellent domestic offices. Garage for 2 cars. Cottage and outbuildings. The gardens and grounds are beautifully laid out and well timbered, in all extending to approximately 19 ACRES

£14,000 FREEHOLD

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700 ft. above sea level. Country House in secluded rural position, easy reach of Croydon and London.

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Full of beautiful oak and period features.

Completely modernised, perfect repair.

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Six-seven bedrooms, bathroom, 2 reception rooms, study, sun lounge, staff room, kitchen, cloakroom. Main water, gas and electricity. Modern drainage. Range of outbuildings. Garage. Grounds including orchard, in all about 4 ACRES

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Nine bed, dressing room, 3 bath, 3 reception, play room, domestic offices. All main services. Central heating. Garage. Outbuildings. Gardener's cottage. Tennis courts, kitchen gardens, orchard, paddock, etc. About 10 ACRES
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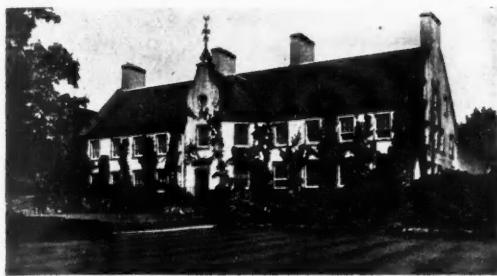
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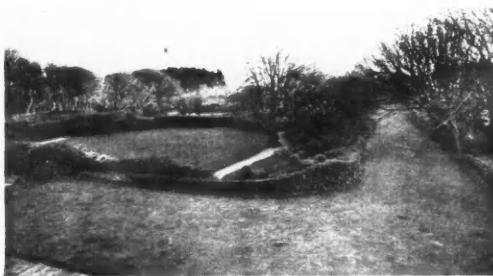


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IPSWICH
Ipswich 4334

BY AUCTION, NOVEMBER 25, 1947, at Royal Victoria and Bull Hotel, Dartford, at 3 p.m. BRONTE NURSERY, Lower Road, Hextable, Kent. 1½ miles Swanley Junction station. VALUABLE GLASSHOUSE NURSERY. 21 excellent glasshouses, mostly heated (27,480 sq. ft.), and cold frames. DETACHED MODERN HOUSE, 2 reception, 3 bedrooms, bathroom (h. and c.). All main services. 5½ ACRES rich loamy market garden soil, fine packing and other sheds. AS LUCRATIVE GOING CONCERN with Possession. Freehold, valuable equipment and growing stock.—Solicitors: BRACHER, SON AND MISKIN, Star House, Maidstone. Particulars and plan of Auctioneers: WOODCOCKS, 30, St. George Street, London, W.1. Tel.: Mayfair 5411 (3 lines).

HERTS. Within 2 miles Watford Junction. DELIGHTFUL TUDOR STYLE RESIDENCE. Three reception, billiard room, 7 bed and dressing rooms, 3 bathrooms. Main services. Gardens and wooded grounds 10 ACRES. Bungalow, garage 3-4 cars, stabling. POSSESSION FREEHOLD £10,500.—Inspected: WOODCOCKS, London Office.

Fitted and equipped throughout in the best possible manner.

Long drive approach through beautifully timbered grounds.

Oak panelled hall, 4 panelled reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 4 modern bathrooms. Stabling.

Garage with 2 splendid flats over. Entrance lodge. All main services.

CHARMING PERIOD HOUSE 20 MILES SOUTH OF LONDON

At the foot of the Surrey Hills in beautiful unspoilt country.

A LUXURIOUS HOME WITH MANY PERIOD FEATURES

Artistic decorations in perfect keeping.

Three reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, all with fitted basins, 4 well-fitted bathrooms. Compact domestic offices with Aga cooker.

All main services. Garage.

Outbuildings with cowshed and stables, etc.

Charming gardens with hard court.



FOR SALE WITH 4 ACRES

Agents: WILSON & CO., 23, Mount Street, W.1.

30, ST. GEORGE STREET,
HANOVER SQUARE, W.1
Mayfair 5411

WANTED

SOUTH-WESTERN COUNTIES, NEAR SEA. Brigadier seeks PERIOD HOUSE, 3-4 reception, 7-10 bedrooms, minimum 4 acres, paddock or woodland, garage, loose box, etc. Will pay up to £10,000 if cottage included, or £12,000 if two houses and small dairy farm.—"Cambridge," Woodstocks, London Office.

WEST SUSSEX. DAIRY FARM 190 ACRES, compact, well situated. Small Modern House in perfect order. Co.'s water, E.L. near. Accredited cowshed for 43, covered yard, etc. Secondary house and old cottage. Excellent sporting. £14,500. EARLY POSSESSION. OR £19,000 COMPLETE WITH HERD, nearly new implements, etc.—WOODCOCKS, London Office.

RIGHT ON THE COAST. Unspoilt Suffolk village. Fine House (5 sitting, 24 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms) in nice grounds. Two cottages 43 ACRES in all, with a lot of growing timber, and sea frontage. ONLY £8,750 FREEHOLD. POSSESSION.—WOODCOCKS, London Office.

HUNTS., adjoining a pretty village. £3,750 FREEHOLD FOR DELIGHTFUL LITTLE PROPERTY 35 ACRES (14 grass, bounded stream). Gentleman's Bijou House, beautifully placed. Two reception 24 ft. x 15 ft. and 16 ft. x 14 ft. 2 bedrooms same sizes, modern bath h. and c. etc. Calor gas. Large pretty garden with fruit trees. Set of buildings nicely removed. POSSESSION JANUARY 1, except 20 acres let.

WOODCOCKS

BUDE ONE MILE. Near delightful old-world village. Small Residential Estate. BEAUTIFUL MODERN (1925) RESIDENCE (designed by famous architect). Four reception, 5 principal bedrooms (h. and c.), 2 single bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 staff bedrooms with bathroom. Main electricity and water. Lovely gardens and pasture 11 ACRES. Garage 6, cowhouse 6. POSSESSION. FREEHOLD. Some furniture, cows and poultry can be purchased.—WOODCOCKS, London Office.

SUFFOLK (1½ miles large seaside resort, near yachting). GENTLEMAN'S CHARACTER RESIDENCE, enclosed by timbered paddocks and grounds of 10 ACRES with drive. Three reception, 7 bedrooms (4 with basins), 2 bathrooms. Mains water. Electricity. Outbuildings. Two garages. Gardener's cottage. FREEHOLD £6,250. POSSESSION NEXT SPRING.—WOODCOCK & SON, Ipswich.

NEAR ESSEX COAST (large seaside resort 1 mile, Colchester 15). BEAUTIFULLY APPOINTED AND MODERNISED PERIOD RESIDENCE in large village. Two charming reception rooms, maid's sitting room, modern kitchen, 5 bedrooms (all with fixed basins). Central heating throughout. Co.'s electricity and all main services. Garage. Delightful garden of 1½ ACRES: swimming pool. Perfect order. FREEHOLD £5,500 FOR QUICK SALE. EARLY POSSESSION.—WOODCOCK & SON, Ipswich.

CHIPPING
NORTON
39

JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK OXFORD AND CHIPPING NORTON

OXFORD
4637/R

By order of Trustees.

SITUATED BETWEEN OXFORD AND FARINGDON, IN THE CENTRE OF THE OLD BERKS HUNT.

KNOWN AS LONGWORTH HOUSE ESTATE, BERKSHIRE

FIRST-CLASS MODERNISED RESIDENCE approached by two drives.

Containing: lounge hall, staircase hall, 4 reception rooms, 9 bedrooms, 3 with dressing rooms adjoining, 4 modern bathrooms, attic storerooms (or 3-4 maids' bedrooms), modern domestic offices.

MAIN ELECTRIC LIGHT AND POWER. AMPLE WATER SUPPLY. CENTRAL HEATING THROUGHOUT.

Squash racquets court. Garages and stabling. Lodge and 4 good service cottages. Charming grounds laid out in walled lawns and herbaceous borders, ancient clipped yews and other ornamental timber, together with orchard, prolific kitchen gardens, well-timbered parkland, an agricultural holding known as Harrowdown, and arable and pasture-land.

IN ALL ABOUT 290 ACRES

To be Sold by Public Auction (unless sold privately meanwhile).

Auctioneers: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

IRELAND—152 ACRE FARM WITH OLD-FASHIONED STONE-BUILT FARMHOUSE

SITUATED IN THE HEART OF THE RESIDENTIAL AND SPORTING DISTRICT OF DUBLIN, WITHIN EASY ACCESS OF HUNTING, RIVER FISHING, TWO GOLF COURSES, AND RACING (PHOENIX PARK). GOOD LAND AND BUILDINGS.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Apply: JAMES STYLES & WHITLOCK, Oxford.

WENDOVER, BUCKS. **FRANK LIMMER, F.A.L.P.A.** Telephone: Wendover 2285

WOKING, SURREY. IDEALLY SITUATED

Exceptionally attractive, secluded well-appointed MODERN RESIDENCE



Accommodation: Hall, cloakroom, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, dressing room, bathroom, maid's sitting room, kitchen. Garage. Boarded roof. Cavity walls, parquet flooring. Matured garden beautifully designed, easily maintained, about 1 acre. All main services, telephone.

Price £6,750 Freehold.

BETWEEN HUNTERFORD AND SWINDON. CAPTIVATING PERIOD COTTAGE. Situated in quaint village. Entire property sympathetically restored, picturesquely garden, paddock. Photographs available. FOR SALE FREEHOLD.

BUCKS-OXON BORDERS. TO LET FURNISHED. REMARKABLY FASCINATING PERIOD COTTAGE, luxuriously equipped. Three bedrooms, 2 reception rooms, kitchen, bathroom, shower room, 2 garages, etc. All modern conveniences. 8 QNS. PER WEEK including full-time gardener.—FRANK LIMMER, as above.

Established 1896 **STOKES & QUIRKE, M.I.A.A.** Phone Mayfair 7070/3113
LONDON OFFICE: 85 DUKE STREET, GROSVENOR SQUARE, W.1

CO. WESTMEATH. ATTRACTIVE 2-STORY NON-BASEMENT GEORGIAN RESIDENCE, near bus and rail, 50 miles Dublin, in perfect structural and decorative repair, standing in well-timbered lands, large walled-in garden and tennis court. Comprising: Entrance hall, 3 large rec., cloakroom, kitchen and offices; 6 beds., fitted basins; maid's room; 2 baths, w.c.s. Good water supply. Central heating. Own lighting plant. Excellent out offices. Six cottages, 308 ACRES land. Ideal for stud farm. Fine hunting and fishing. £17,500 and fees.

CO. KERRY. In famous sporting country near Killarney, this CHARMING HOUSE was built in 1710, and has lately been thoroughly modernised. Accommodation: Hall, 3 rec., kitchen, cloakroom, housekeeper's room, 4 beds., bath, w.c., maid's room. Dairy, garage, and extensive out offices. Cesspool drainage. Own electricity. Lough fishing, and good rough shooting. 103 ACRES land. £6,000 and fees.

Full details of Irish Properties and Hotels for sale kept on our Registers. Write to STOKES & QUIRKE, London (as above), and state your requirements

WILLIAM COWLIN & SON, LTD.

GLoucestershire. GROVE HOUSE, TOCKINGTON. Bristol 8 miles. Most attractive country residence in gardens and grounds of 7½ ACRES. Lounge hall, 3 rec., level offices, servants' sitting room, 7 bed., 4 bath. (h. & c.), 3 maids' bedrooms. Every convenience. Restored and remodelled with care. Lovely surroundings. Central heating. Companies' elec. and water. Basins (h. & c.) in bedrooms. Delightful gardens, orchard, paddock. Two garages, stabling, cowhouse, etc. To be Sold by Auction (unless previously sold privately) on Thursday, December 4, 1947. Particulars from the Auctioneers: WILLIAM COWLIN & SON, LTD., 29, Princess Victoria Street, Clifton, Bristol. Tel. 33044.

Telegrams:
"Wood, Agents, Weso,
London."

JOHN D. WOOD & CO.

23. BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON, W.1

Mayfair 6341
(10 lines)

SUITABLE FOR PRIVATE RESIDENCE, SCHOOL, TRAINING COLLEGE, INSTITUTE, ETC. APETHORPE HALL, NEAR PETERBOROUGH, NORTHANTS

Station 2 miles, Oundle 6 miles, London 90 miles.

ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL MANSIONS IN THE COUNTRY

dating from the period of Henry VI, stone built, arranged around inner and outer quadrangles enclosing well-kept lawns.

Large suite of state rooms richly decorated and including panelled banqueting hall, 40 bed and dressing rooms, 13 bathrooms, long gallery 115 ft. x 20 ft. 9 in., and complete domestic offices, lift, etc.

MAIN ELECTRIC LIGHT. CENTRAL HEATING. ESTATE WATER SUPPLY. MODERN DRAINAGE.



Further particulars of Messrs. FISHER & CO., Land Agents, Market Harborough, or JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

UPHAM COTTAGE, NEAR WINCHESTER

On the edge of a village 8 miles from Winchester. In a pleasant situation with distant views.

CHARMING GEORGIAN HOUSE

Entirely upon two floors and in excellent condition.



IN ALL ABOUT 6 ACRES

For Sale Freehold as a whole or in 3 lots by Auction on November 26, 1947, at Winchester.

Auctioneers: GUDGEON & SON, Estate Offices, Winchester, and JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (62,207)

AN ATTRACTIVE RESIDENTIAL AND AGRICULTURAL PROPERTY ON THE BORDERS OF SURREY AND SUSSEX

Within an hour of Town.

CHARMING 15th-CENTURY RESIDENCE



ABOUT 50 ACRES

Vacant Possession of the land and buildings September, 1948, or earlier by arrangement.

Further particulars from the Joint Sole Agents: Messrs. OFFER & OFFER, 81, Elizabeth Street, S.W.1 (Sloane 8212), or Messrs. JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, W.1 (Mayfair 6341). (22,554)

By order of the Trustees of the late Sir Blundell Maple, deceased.

ENGLEMERE, ASCOT

26 miles south-west of London. 50 minutes from Waterloo by electric train. 300 ft. above sea level.

IDEAL FOR A HIGH-CLASS SCHOOL OR RESIDENTIAL INSTITUTION.

Fully modernised and in exceptional order.

Four reception, 26 bed and dressing, 13 bath. Central heating. All mains. Passenger lift. Modern open-air swimming bath. Squash court. Two modernised cottages. Bungalow. Bothy. Garages for 4. Two flats.

Kitchen gardens and pleasure grounds of **25 ACRES**

VACANT POSSESSION EXCEPT ONE FLAT ON COMPLETION.



Full particulars from the Joint Auctioneers: BARTON, WYATT & BOWEN, London Road, Sunningdale, and JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1.

The well-known gardens are not expensive to maintain, and include swimming pool, hard tennis court, 2 walled kitchen gardens, and range of glass, all in good order. Two cottages, chauffeur's flat, range of stables, and heated garages.

The surrounding parkland is generally level and suitable for playing fields, and the estate comprises in all about **136 ACRES**

FOR SALE WITH VACANT POSSESSION

DORSET

4 miles north of county town.

LOVELY EARLY 18th-CENTURY HOUSE OF REAL DISTINCTION

with several panelled rooms.

Four reception rooms, 8-9 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms.

Staff annexe of 4 rooms and bath.

MAIN ELECTRICITY.

AGA COOKER.

CENTRAL HEATING.



Two cottages. Trout stream.

9 ACRES. £15,000

JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (Mayfair 6341.) (60,369)

SUSSEX

Between Tunbridge Wells and East Grinstead, close to bus route.

BEAUTIFUL PERIOD HOUSE

(part dating from 1485) in excellent order.

Eight best bedrooms, 2 dressing rooms, 6 bathrooms, billiards room, and 4 reception.

CENTRAL HEATING.

MAIN ELECTRICITY.

COMPANY'S WATER.

MODERN DRAINAGE.

Two cottages.

Farm buildings with ties for 30.



Lovely grounds and parkland.

ABOUT 43 ACRES

Inspected and recommended by JOHN D. WOOD & CO., 23, Berkeley Square, London, W.1. (Mayfair 6341); and Messrs. CHARLES J. PARRIS, Tunbridge Wells. (30,461)

Also The White House Red House, Studio Flat.

Modernised lodge and large bungalow.

ALL WITH VACANT POSSESSION.

Fully equipped indoor Riding School.

Pair of cottages. Modern bungalow.

ALTOGETHER ABOUT 27^{3/4} ACRES

For Sale privately as a whole or by Auction in London on November 26, 1947

BOURNEMOUTH

WILLIAM FOX, F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I.
H. STODDART FOX, F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I.
H. INGLE FOX, F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I.

FOX & SONS

LAND AGENTS
BOURNEMOUTH—SOUTHAMPTON—BRIGHTON—WORTHING

By direction of the Trustees. SALE ON THURSDAY NEXT.

SEAVIEW, ISLE OF WIGHT

Situated about 3½ miles from Ryde with excellent boat service to Portsmouth, whence London is easily reached by express trains.

SEAGROVE ESTATE

Comprising a section of the picturesque seaside resort of Seaview including the moderate sized Mansion known as "Seagrove" possessing remarkably fine views over Spithead and standing in a miniature park of about 17 ACRES. Home farm of about 43 acres. The fully licensed Pier Hotel of 56 bedrooms with vacant possession.

Freehold ground rents secured on excellent Residential and Commercial Properties.

Rack rents. Two boathouses capable of conversion to week-end cottages. Excellent cottage with vacant possession. Block of well-wooded land. Building site. Beach, bathing, car park and boating rights, and

THE UNIQUE CHAIN PIER

Total actual income £958 per annum.

VACANT POSSESSION of Main Residence, Pier Hotel, one Cottage, one Boathouse, Chain Pier, and Car Parking Rights.



To be offered for Sale by Auction, in one or several Lots, at Kimbells Cafe, Osborne Road, Southsea, on Thursday, November 27, 1947, at 3.30 p.m. (unless previously sold privately).

Solicitors: Messrs. FARDELL, Market Street, Ryde. Auctioneers: Messrs. Fox & Sons, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

HAMBLE RIVER, HANTS.

Occupying a sheltered position in a woodland setting close to the yachting centres of Bursledon and Warsash.

THE ATTRACTIVE DETACHED RESIDENCE

Built of brick with Norfolk reed thatched roof, architect designed and fitted with modern conveniences.



Three bedrooms (fitted basins and hanging cupboards), covered verandah lounge 23 ft. by 21 ft. 6 in., dining room, sun loggia, cloakroom, domestic offices.

Excellent garage with bedroom over (b. and c.).

Grounds of about 2 ACRES main natural woodland.

VACANT POSSESSION ON COMPLETION OF PURCHASE.

Further particulars of Fox & Sons, 2-3, Gilbs Road, Above Bar, Southampton (Tel.: 3941/2), and at Bournemouth, Brighton and Worthing.

Close to the Historic Town of WAREHAM, DORSET

Occupying a splendid secluded position in unspoilt country.
EXCELLENT BOATING AND FISHING FACILITIES AT WAREHAM.
Corfe Castle 4 miles, Swanage 10 miles, Bournemouth 15 miles.

ATTRACTIVE COUNTRY RESIDENCE

Five principal bedrooms, 3 secondary bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms, maid's sitting room, panelled entrance hall, cloakroom, kitchen and complete domestic offices. Four-roomed cottage and garage. Greenhouse and other useful outbuildings. Delightful well-wooded grounds, including lawns, rose garden, herbaceous borders, small wood, also orchard, walled-in kitchen garden and paddock, in all about 13 ACRES



The paddock of about 6 acres and one additional acre are let on a yearly tenancy. VACANT POSSESSION of the remainder on completion of the purchase. Company's electric light. Good water supply. Septic tank drainage. Partial central heating.

PRICE FOR QUICK SALE ONLY £9,750 FREEHOLD (or near offer).
For particulars and appointments to view apply: Fox & Sons, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.

REIGATE, SURREY

Within easy reach of station, London 35 minutes, and overlooking lovely heathland.

A MOST ATTRACTIVE SPLENDIDLY APPOINTED RESIDENCE

Replanned by Sir Edward Lutyens and well situated on rising ground



Eight bedrooms, nursery, 6 bathrooms, large hall, cloakroom, fine drawing room, lounge, panelled dining room, sun room, splendid billiard room, study, compact domestic offices. Two staff flats. Two cottages. Garage for 4 cars.

All main services.

Delightful well-maintained gardens and grounds extending to 6½ ACRES



VACANT POSSESSION. PRICE: £23,500 FREEHOLD

Apply: Fox & Sons, 117, Western Road, Brighton. Tel.: Hove 9201 (6 lines).

SWANAGE, DORSET

Occupying a magnificent unrivalled position with delightful views over the bay to the Purbeck Hills, Bournemouth Bay and the coastline in the distance.



THIS SOUNDLY CONSTRUCTED STONE-BUILT RESIDENCE

having a secluded position and being easy to maintain.

Five bedrooms and dressing room, combined sitting room and dining room which could form additional bedrooms if required, 2 bathrooms, good-sized drawing and dining rooms, cloakroom, maid's sitting room, excellent kitchen and domestic offices. All main services. Garage.

Delightful grounds laid out with sloping lawns, well matured, timber-like trees and ornamental trees, stone-paved paths, rose garden, kitchen garden, fruit trees.

Small spinney rented from local Council giving private access to the Downs.

PRICE £7,250 FREEHOLD

Fox & Sons, 44-52, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth.



Bournemouth 6300
(5 lines)

44-52, OLD CHRISTCHURCH ROAD, BOURNEMOUTH.
(12 BRANCH OFFICES)

Telegrams:
"Homefinder," Bournemouth

ESTATE

Kensington 1490
Telegrams:
"Estate, Harrods, London"



Inspected and strongly recommended by HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1 (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 809).

WARLINGHAM AND WHYTELEAFE c.2

On a bus route $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from each station.

ARCHITECT-BUILT BUNGALOW



Beautifully built and fitted.

Splendid order. Three reception, 5 bedrooms (2 with basins), 2 bathrooms.

MAIN SERVICES. AUTOMATIC CENTRAL HEATING.

Three garages.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD
VACANT POSSESSION

HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1 (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 809).

COOKHAM DEAN, BERKS c.4

Facing famous Cliveden Woods, and commanding magnificent panoramic views.



A REALLY DIGNIFIED RESIDENCE

Only 45 mins. from Town, with hall, 3 reception rooms, 6 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, complete offices. Electric light and power. Co.'s water. Aga cooker. Double garage and useful outbuildings. Cottage. Beautiful gardens of about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ACRES, and paddock of $2\frac{1}{2}$ ACRES

IN ALL ABOUT 4 ACRES

PRICE FREEHOLD £12,500

Sole Agents: HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, S.W.1 (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 806).

HARRODS
34-36 HANS CRESCENT LONDON. S.W.1

SUSSEX. SAILING DISTRICT

Handy for village. Five miles market town.

17TH-CENTURY FARMHOUSE

Modernised and in faultless order throughout.

Three reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, maid's sitting room.

MAIN WATER AND ELECTRICITY. CENTRAL HEATING.

Aga cooker. Fitted basins in bedrooms.

Garage. Stabling. Two fine old barns.

Garden and paddock, about $3\frac{1}{2}$ ACRES

FREEHOLD £11,000



OFFICES

Surrey Offices:
West Byfleet
and Haslemere

c.2

KENT AND SURREY BORDERS c.3

peacefully unspoilt country about 6 miles from the market town of East Grinstead.

FREEHOLD PROPERTY OF HISTORICAL
INTEREST AND ABOUT 125 ACRESA COMFORTABLE GEORGIAN
RESIDENCE

approached by avenue drive.

Five reception rooms, 12 beds., 5 bathrooms. Electric light. Modern drainage. Garage. Stabling. Cottages. Ruins of old Castle and Moat. Lovely pleasure grounds, also farm land.

FOR SALE FREEHOLD

Inspected and recommended. Joint Sole Agents: HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, S.W.1 (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 807), and Messrs. FOX & MANWARING, Edenbridge, Kent.

ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PROPERTIES ON
THE SURREY HILLS c.4

Occupying an unrivalled site 500 ft. up facing due south and commanding delightful views.

THIS EXTREMELY PICTURESQUE
RESIDENCE

with its suite of lounge hall, 3 reception rooms, billiards room, and a ballroom 40 ft. x 30 ft., maid's bedroom, 3 staff rooms, ample domestic offices. Every conceivable convenience, including main drainage, central heating, hot and cold water in bedrooms, Co.'s electric light, gas and water. Garage for 3 cars, with flat for chauffeur and gardener. Delightful grounds, gently sloping to the south, with specimen trees, hard tennis court, lawns, walled kitchen garden, orchard, shady walks, etc.

IN ALL $4\frac{1}{2}$ ACRES

Recommended as something exceptional by HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1 (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 806).

ALMOST ADJOINING LIMPSFIELD GOLF COURSE c.3

And close to common with wonderful views over unspoilt country.

SMALL TUDOR STYLE MANOR HOUSE
of delightfully picturesque elevation.

Lounge hall, 2 reception rooms, 7 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms.

ALL MAIN SERVICES

Double garage. Stabling for 3.

Excellent cottage. Lovely garden, kitchen garden, and paddock,

ABOUT $3\frac{3}{4}$ ACRES

FREEHOLD ONLY £8,750



Sole Agents: HARRODS LTD., 34-36, Hans Crescent, Knightsbridge, S.W.1 (Tel.: Kensington 1490. Ext. 807), and GUY HANSCOMB, Oxted, Surrey (Oxted 315).



SALISBURY
(Tel. 2491)

WOOLLEY & WALLIS

WOODLEY HOUSE ESTATE, ROMSEY, HAMPSHIRE

and at RINGWOOD
& ROMSEYGEORGIAN STYLE RESIDENCE
"WOODLEY HOUSE"

Three reception, 7 principal, 4 secondary bedrooms, garages, **3 ACRES**. Let to September, 1948, at £350 p.a.

GREAT WOODLEY FARM HOUSE AND
70 ACRES

Five cottages. Accommodation land.

Particulars from the Auctioneers at Romsey or the Solicitors: Messrs. STILEMAN, NEATE & TOPPING, 16, Southampton Place, W.C.1.



Lot. 4. "WOODLEY HOUSE."

BARTON, WYATT & BOWEN
42, BAKER STREET, WEYBRIDGE (Tel. 2631)IN LOVELY COUNTRY SURROUNDINGS
(Waterloo 26 minutes)

MODERN GEORGIAN STYLE RESIDENCE

Delightful grounds, south aspect, away from traffic, yet within easy reach of shops, station, etc.



Vendor's Agents: BARTON, WYATT & BOWEN, 42, Baker Street, Weybridge. (Tel. 2631.)

ABOUT 1½ ACRES

Oak panelled lounge, dining room, large library, 4 bed., dressing room, bathroom, maid's sitting room, offices. Oak floors and doors. Main services. Central heating.

Garage and chauffeur's flat.

The grounds are bounded by fine belts of trees affording almost complete seclusion, lawns, vegetable garden, fruit trees, etc.

CLASSIFIED PROPERTIES

2/- per line. (Min. 3 lines.) Box fee 1/6.

TO LET

COTSWOLDS (beautiful part of). About 8 miles Kemble Junction. Fine one reception, 7-9 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms. Main electric light. Central heating. Good water and drainage. Stabling 6, garages, cottage, 15 acres. To be let to approved tenant on lease, £190 per annum.—Sole Agents: JACKSON-STOPS, Castle Street, Cirencester.

ST. LEONARDS-ON-SEA. Newly decorated and furnished Flats facing sea in modern block now available. Sitting room with bed recess (2 divans), bathroom, kitchen, toilet.—Write: MANAGER, Marine Court, St. Leonards-on-Sea. Tel.: Hastings 4000.

WEST COUNTRY VILLAGE (over-looking). Beautiful Tudor House, exquisitely furnished, in excellent condition and easily run; about 14 bedrooms, 6 reception rooms. To let for 5 or 7 years, nominal rent. Main electricity and water. Oil-fired central heating.—Apply: JACKSON-STOPS & STAFF, Hanover Street, W.L.

FOR SALE

BUCKS. The Chalfonts. A really delightful modern Country House in rural surroundings, yet only 1 mile of village and on half-hourly bus service to Gerrards Cross and Little Chalfont Stations. Three rec., 5 beds, fine domestic offices and bathroom. Central heating. Two garages. Lovely grounds of about 2 acres. Just in the market. Freehold for sale with vacant possession.—Full details of Sole Agents: HETHERINGTON & SECRETT, F.A.I., Estate Offices, Gerrards Cross (Tel. 2094), and at London, W.5.

CANADA. 625-acre picturesque Dairy Farm with river 22 miles from Toronto. Modern concrete and steel buildings. Very latest equipment. 185 head of pure-bred Guernsey cattle. One of outstanding dairy farms in the country. Cost £65,000. Best offer.—Box 140.

CHESHIRE. Small, compact modernised Country Residence in superb order and ready for immediate occupation. In the heart of the Cheshire hunting country and within 8 miles of Chester. Accommodation affords sun porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, domestic offices, 4 bedrooms, 1 dressing room, 2 bathrooms, maid's bedroom and bathroom. Loose boxes, outbuildings, etc. Small croft. Garage for two cars. Freehold £6,500.—Apply: HARPER WEBB & CO., F.R.I.C.S., F.A.I., 33, White Friars, Chester (Tel. 685).

DORSET. Attractive, roomy Cottage for sale, freehold, with pleasant garden, open outlook, thatched, oak beams. Vacant possession by end of year. Price £3,000.—Write, Box 112.

COTSWOLD FARM, good social and sporting district, covert just in Heythrop country. Small easily run period House of great character—manor house of tiny hamlet, stands high, some central heating. Grass farm 70 acres, easily lettable. Good buildings, cottage. Early possession of house also land if required.—Box 147.

DEVON. Lovely unspoilt country between Tiverton and Bampton. Over ½ mile salmon and trout fishing River Exe. Fine small Residential and Sporting Estate. Georgian stone house of pleasing character, 9 bedrooms and 4 staff ditto, 3 bathrooms, 4 reception. Lodge, excellent stabling and garages, 58 acres all maintained including walled garden. Main electricity. £12,000. Also very suitable as sporting country club.—RUMSEY & RUMSEY, Country Department, 111, Old Christchurch Road, Bournemouth (Phone 7080, 5 lines), and 10 branches.

EXETER 5 miles. In a lovely setting. Gentleman's small Agricultural Estate of 268 acres, comprising Attestor Dairy and Mixed Holding with sporting woodlands. "Very different from the average farm," charming little period residence, 3 rec., 4 bed., "Aga" cooker. Baillif's bungalow and pair model estate cottages all with bathrooms. Really up-to-date farm buildings. Cow stalls for 29, tiled dairy and sterilising room. Modern stabling. Granary, Barns and implement sheds. Own electricity and water supplied throughout. Petrol pump and tank. £16,000 freehold. Outgoings under £30 per annum. Immediate possession.—GRIBBLE, BOOTH & SHEPHERD, Estate Agents, 9, Hendford, Yeovil (Tel. 434). And at Basingstoke.

GUILDFORD AND HORSHAM (between) Tudor Hunting Box. Wealth of old oak beams; tastefully modernised—centrally heated, etc.; 3 beds (2 with h. and c.), 2 rec. rooms, kitchen and bathroom. Stable cottage, 2 bed, living room, bathroom, kitchenette. Six modern loose boxes; harness room; double garage. 21 acres. £12,500. View by appointment only.—Box 151.

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WANTED

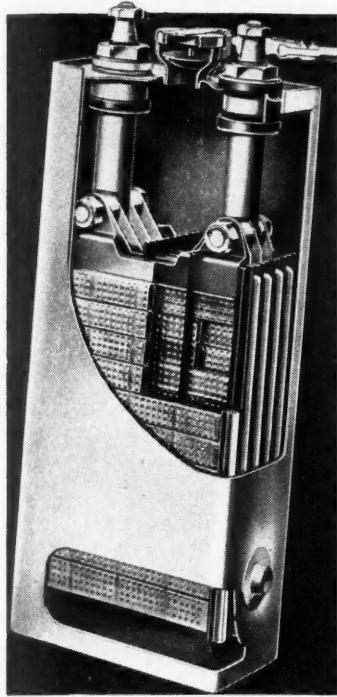
COUNTRY MANSION or Hotel required for Girls' School. Fifty to 100 bedroom essential with at least 15 bathrooms. Ground for playing fields necessary but up to 2,000 acres would be bought. Must be good seashore or country district at least 300 ft. above sea level and in condition for immediate occupation.—Purchasers' Agents: DOUGLAS MARTIN & PARTNERS, Hendon Central, N.W.1. Tel.: Hendon 6333. 4 lines.

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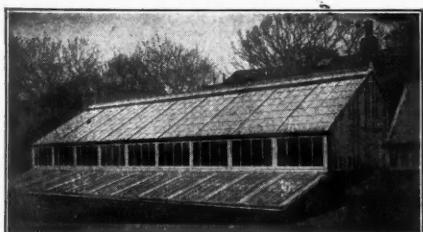
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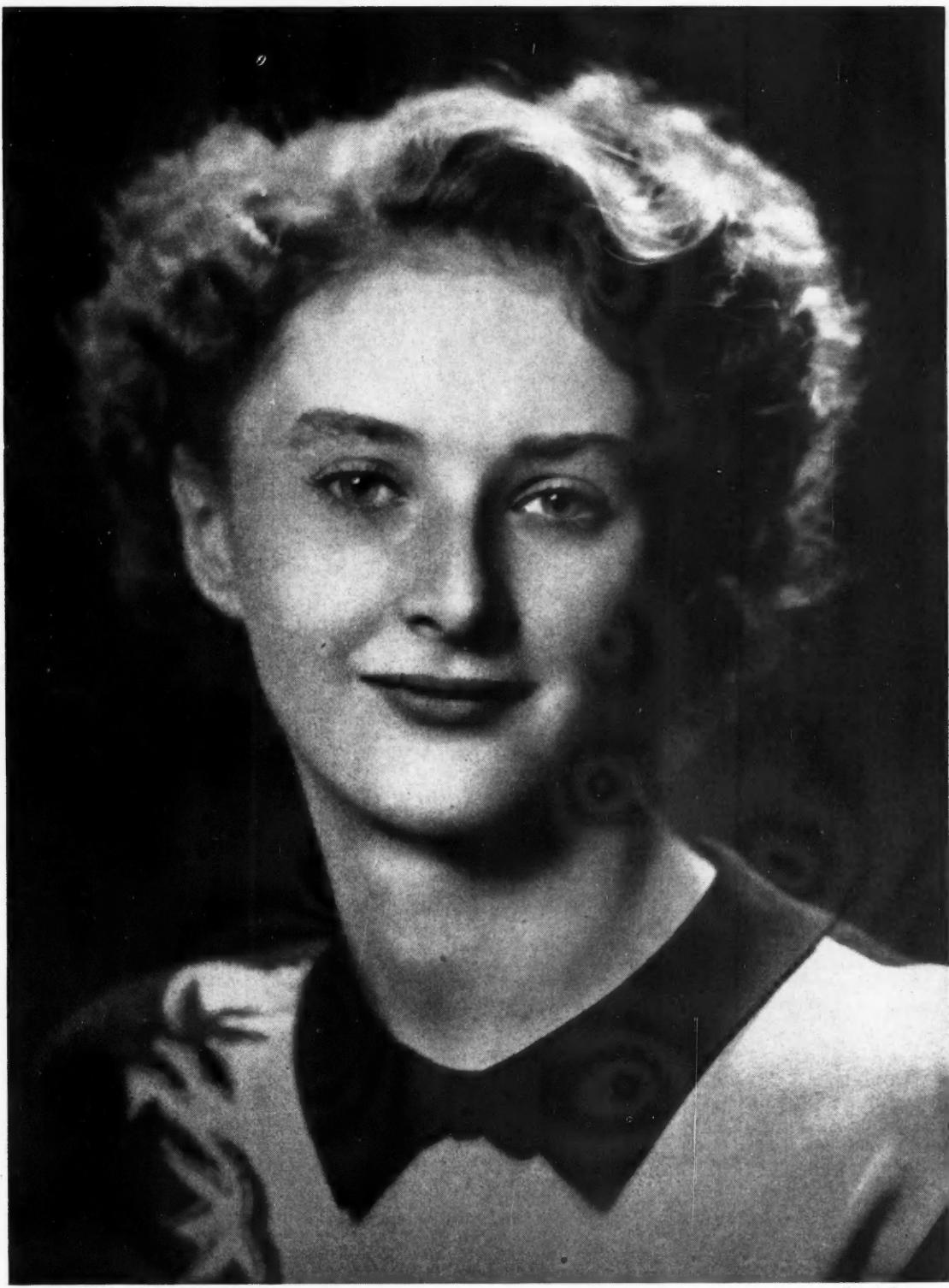
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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. CII No. 2653

NOVEMBER 21, 1947



Pearl Freeman

MISS HILARY MAVIS FINDLAY

Miss Hilary Mavis Findlay, who is the daughter of the late Colonel H. Findlay and Mrs. Findlay, of the Goldsmith's House, Burgate, Canterbury, is to be married on December 12 to Captain John Theodore Radclyffe Prestige, the son of Sir John Prestige and Lady Prestige, of Bourne Park, Bishopsbourne, Kent



Alfred Furness

LOOKING OVER BLAIR CASTLE TOWARDS THE SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS

A COUNTRYMAN'S NOTES

By

Major C. S. JARVIS

IN this corner of England there has been more trimming and cutting back of overgrown hedges during 1947 than for the last seven years. This was due to the hold-up of all other work on the farms during the bitter weather in February and March, and to another long slack period on the land in September, when the continued drought prevented early ploughing after the carrying of the harvest. The results of these activities were truly colossal, which is not remarkable seeing that little in the nature of attention to hedges and ditches had been possible on under-staffed farms during the war years. But what does seem to me remarkable is that practically every farmer who had carried out hedge-cutting took the trouble to cart the enormous mass of dried-out twigs and bramble shoots from various parts of the farm and stack them in the middle of one field. These all went up in flames in the evening of November 5.

The two farmers who were responsible for these particularly spectacular conflagrations have no young children who desire to celebrate Guy Fawkes Day, and one can only conclude that their action was dictated by a deep-rooted instinct to observe old country customs. Since almost all the delightful old farm customs, such as the provision of jugs of beer or cider with hunks of home-made cheese at haymaking time, and the Harvest-home dinner, are now denied them, I imagine that they made up their minds to put up a particularly good show with one of the few activities for which they are not re-

quired to-day to fill in forms in triplicate and obtain an official permit, namely the burning of rubbish. At the same time I do not overlook the fact that, so far as this particular soil is concerned, the ashes from a wood fire constitute a most valuable and active manure.

* * *

A CORRESPONDENT, who has travelled widely in the British Isles and Empire and has always kept an observant eye on pigs, has sent me a long list of the names given to the smallest or "cad" pig in the litter. As will be seen from it, the names quoted cover a good many English counties, together with Wales and Ireland, but the collection is notably deficient in one respect, since there is nothing from Scotland.

Berkshire.—The Dolly Pig.
Cumberland.—The Larl 'un, i.e., Little 'un.
Devon.—The Runt.
Dorset.—The Doll.
Gloucestershire.—The Harry Pig and the Rinnuck.

Next week's issue of "Country Life" will be devoted to the Royal Wedding. Among other features it will contain several coloured plates and a special description of the ceremony in the Abbey.

Hampshire.—The Darling.
Hereford-Worcester border.—The Midget.
Herefordshire and Welsh borders.—The Nisgal or Dysgal.

Norfolk.—The Cringle.
Nottinghamshire, Shropshire and Yorkshire.—The Rickling.

Shropshire.—The Ratling and the Scrubby Little Joker.
Shropshire-Welsh border.—The Cadigwin.
Staffordshire.—St. Anthony's Pig and the Proper Outcast.

Suffolk.—The Pipman.
Suffolk, Sussex and Australia.—The Cad.
Mid-Wales.—The Cwlin.
Ireland and Bermuda.—The Dillon.
Bailey's Dictionary (1742)—The Cadma.

My correspondent states that he feels the list is very far from complete and that he is fully aware that the names used for the "cad pig" vary with approximately every fifty miles of the British Isles, and that it is possible that large counties such as Yorkshire and Devon may have half a dozen or more.

The word "wart," before it came into general use to denote all second-lieutenants, was the nickname given to the most unpopular and futile, and therefore the "cad pig," of the junior officers of a regiment, and he wonders what is the correct name for the "cad pig" of a Cabinet of Ministers.

* * *

IN this part of the country, as in others, I imagine, there are two schools of thought as to the correct and safest way to carry a

scythe when setting forth to work in the morning and returning after the day's toil in the evening. One method, which I think is usually recommended by the safety-first brigade, is for the handle to rest on the right shoulder with the point of the blade flat against the left thigh. The other, the more casual one, is with the handle on the right shoulder and the blade round the neck, which is quite comfortable and moderately safe when one is wearing a coat and remembers that it is a scythe one is carrying.

The following story about a scythe comes from Ireland and is on a par with that of the two men who went to steal the bell ropes from the church. The first shinned up the rope to the top, cut it away from beneath him and hung there until he was exhausted, when he fell with a crash on to the belfry floor. The other man was annoyed at his stupidity: "That's not the way to do it—watch me," and with that he climbed up the other rope, cut it through just above his head and fell, breaking his leg.

A FARMER in a district of Ireland famous for its salmon (so runs the scythe story), was on his way home along the river's bank

after a day spent cutting the grass in his meadow. He was carrying his scythe draped round his neck, when suddenly he noticed a fine salmon lying right under the bank. The Irish scythe is usually fitted with a sharp spike at the end of the handle, and the farmer thought that this spike was just the thing for the salmon. Leaning over cautiously, he aimed a terrific jab at the stationary fish—and the following day his head was retrieved from the eel-weir half a mile down stream!

A CORRESPONDENT has sent me an explanation of the Loch Ness monster mystery which may suit many of the occasions when something unusual has been seen, but hardly the many cases when loch-side residents have reported the sea monster. It would seem reasonable to suppose that these eye-witnesses are well acquainted with the rock formations which he considers are mistaken for the mysterious creature.

He writes: "If you examine the published accounts of the appearances of a 'long scaly back' you will find that a significant number of them mention that the monster had apparently

been disturbed by the passage of a tug. Now a tug leaves a wake, and the loch is lined with slabs of rock standing edgewise, which are very near the surface, even when well out from the edge. These are exposed by the wake as it surges along, giving the appearance of a dark rough back moving slowly after the tug, but well behind and nearer to the shore.

"I have seen at one time during a trip down the loch three separate groups of dumb-blucks watching this phenomenon, taking photographs and saying: 'My word, there's something there all right' at three separate and distinct places in the wakes of three different tugs. I don't know about the 'long head and neck,' but that is unquestionably the explanation of the 'long scaly back,' and many is the laugh I have had over it. But, of course, one dare not say it too near the Great Glen for fear of political assassination. Just like speaking the truth about Shakespeare's house to the inhabitants of Stratford-on-Avon."

Since it is the policy of COUNTRY LIFE to discourage the assassination of writers who express unpopular opinions I am suppressing my correspondent's name.

BY WATERWAY TO WALES

By L. T. C. ROLT

AT Hurleston Junction, two miles to the north of Nantwich, a narrow waterway leaves the main line of the Shropshire Union Canal, climbs by a flight of locks out of the levels of the Cheshire Plain and winds away through the green fields in a south-westerly direction. This is the old Ellesmere Canal or, as it is now commonly called, the Welsh Section of the Shropshire Union. Of all the navigable rivers and canals of Britain it is probably unsurpassed both for the beauty and variety of the country which it traverses, and as a monument to the genius of our first engineers.

In clear weather from the top of the locks at Hurleston, the water traveller can look back across the Cheshire Levels and see, a long blue wall in the distance, the foothills of the Peak beyond Macclesfield. But this wide prospect soon disappears as, still climbing gradually by intermittent locks, the old canal traverses rich, well-wooded dairy country by the villages of Baddiley (Fig. 1), Wrenbury and Marbury of the meres to enter Shropshire near Whitchurch. Here, at Grindley Brook, there is a staircase of locks from the top of which the voyager catches the first glimpse of the Welsh highlands to the west. Before him there now stretches twenty miles of waterway without a lock.

At the little hamlet of Platt Lane, five miles beyond Grindley Brook, there is a sudden striking change in the landscape. Abruptly, the

rich pasture lands are left behind, and for the next three miles to the Flintshire village of Bettisfield the canal crosses Whixall Moss and Fenn's Moss, which together form a great tract of bogland. A lonely purple-brown expanse dotted with stacks of drying peat and stretching away to a blue horizon of distant mountains, it is a prospect which does not seem rightly to belong to England or to Wales but to the great bogs of the Irish midlands. As in Ireland, the cottages of small peasant farmers who augment their livelihood by cutting peat are scattered here and there on the marginal lands which fringe these mosses. Here, too, there are green roads and wide-verged trackways which are favourite camping-grounds for the gypsy (Fig. 2). It is rare to cross the mosses without seeing at least one of their brightly painted wagons, the blue spiral of smoke from a camp-fire, or a hobbled skewbald at graze.

These mosses, and the smaller tracts of marsh and heath which border the canal in the neighbourhood of Hampton Bank, are great bird sanctuaries. The piping of curlew and redshank is their characteristic music, snipe and sandpiper are common, and in the late dusk of fine summer evenings I have watched that mysterious bird the nightjar in swift and silent flight. Copper-coloured and azure-blue dragonflies hover over the yellow musk flowers among the reeds by the margin of the canal.

Beyond Hampton Bank there is another swift change of scene, for here the canal enters the woodlands which fringe the meres of Shropshire's lake district. Trees make a cool tunnel of green shade in hot weather, the still clear water dappled with sunlight and reflecting the pattern of leaf and branch overhead (Fig. 3). Between the tree boles and within a stone's throw of the canal lie the waters of Cole Mere, where the Jack o'lantern or *ignis fatuus* may sometimes be seen, and the small Blake Mere. By Blake Mere the canal burrows through a short tunnel to reach Ellesmere, a small market town that was once famous for its cheese fairs and is still a centre of dairy and rennet manufacture.

At Welsh Frankton, a remote village on the Shropshire March, an arm of the canal bears away to the southward to follow the valley of the Severn to Welshpool and Newtown. Meanwhile the Llangollen line inclines to the northwest past the village of Hindford to the two locks at New Marton. It is upon the twelve-mile level from the top of these locks to Llangollen that Thomas Telford's major engineering works are situated. The first of these is at Chirk, where the canal crosses the Vale of Cefnog to enter Denbighshire (Fig. 4). The level of the canal is 70 ft. above the river, and it was at first proposed to descend the valley by flights of locks. This would have involved much loss of

time and water in working, and Telford therefore resolved to cross the valley on the level by an aqueduct of ten arches of 40 ft. span each. A structure of such size and height involved a new departure in canal construction. Hitherto, canals had been carried over rivers and streams in a puddled clay bed the size and weight of which necessitated massive masonry beneath. This method was impracticable for a work of the magnitude of the Chirk aqueduct. Accordingly Telford formed the canal bottom of cast-iron plates flamed and bolted together, the side walls retaining the water being of ashlar masonry backed with hard bricks set in Parker's cement. As Samuel Smiles remarks in his biography of Telford, "the aqueduct is a splendid specimen of the finest class of masonry." It is indeed a beautifully proportioned structure to which the handsome cast-iron balustrade on the towing-path side contributes an appropriate finishing touch.

1.—ON THE OLD ELLESMERE CANAL NEAR BADDILEY, CHESHIRE



Immediately beyond the aqueduct the canal is carried through a tunnel a quarter of a mile in length (Fig. 5) and then through a deep wooded cutting to another shorter tunnel at Whitehurst. At Plas Offa it crosses the line of Offa's Dyke, turning westward up the Vale of Llangollen. This brings one to Telford's master-work, the great aqueduct of Pont Cysylltau, over 1,000 ft. long and 120 ft. high, by means of which the waterway is carried on the level from one side of the valley to the other (Fig. 6). George Borrow in *Wild Wales* writes of it with awe, and Sir Walter Scott, speaking of it to Southey, called it "the most impressive work of art he had ever seen." It is easy to appreciate the impression which Pont Cysylltau left upon the minds of the Georgians, for even to-day, in an age sated with engineering and scientific marvels, a first sight of the towering piers never fails to excite wonderment.

At Pont Cysylltau, Telford carried the use of cast-iron a stage farther than he had done at Chirk, the trough carrying the



3.—IN THE SHROPSHIRE LAKE DISTRICT, NEAR ELLESMORE (Right) 4.—CHIRK AQUEDUCT, CARRYING THE CANAL OVER THE VALLEY OF THE CEIRIOG FROM SHROPSHIRE INTO DENBIGHSHIRE

waterway complete with towing-path being built wholly of metal sections, and the masonry work confined to the supporting piers only. As a consequence, compared with that of the massive proportions of the Chirk aqueduct, the effect is one of remarkable lightness and grace. When it is remembered that Telford was working in what was then an entirely new architectural medium, it is salutary to reflect that for sheer symmetry, workmanship and sense of proportion in the employment of metalwork we have not yet rivalled the achievements of Telford and his contemporaries.

After the meadows, the bogs and the lakes, the mountains. For the remainder of its course to Llangollen the canal occupies a narrow shelf on the shoulder of Ruabon Mountain high above the Dee, and winds beneath the shadow of Owen Glendower's fortress of Dinas Bran. In the form of a



2.—GYPSIES CAMPED BESIDE THE CANAL AT WHIXALL MOSS, SHROPSHIRE

navigable feeder it extends for a further two miles up the valley from Llangollen to the Horseshoe Falls of the Dee, where it draws its water supply.

Why, it is often asked, were such tremendous works undertaken merely to carry a canal to the small town of Llangollen? The answer to this question is to be found in the inscription on one of the piers of Pont Cysylltau:—

The Nobility and Gentry of
The adjacent Counties,
Having united their efforts with
The great commercial interests of this Country
In creating an intercourse and union between
ENGLAND AND NORTH WALES,
By a navigable communication of the three Rivers
SEVERN, DEE, and MERSEY,
For the mutual benefit of Agriculture and Trade,
Caused the first stone of this Aqueduct of
PONTCSYLLTAU
To be laid on the 25th day of July, 1795,
When Richard Myddelton, of Chirk, Esq. M.P.,
One of the original patrons of the
ELLESMORE CANAL,
Was Lord of this Manor,
And in the Reign of our Sovereign
GEORGE THE THIRD,
When the equity of the Laws, and
The security of Property,
Promoted the general welfare of the Nation;
While the Arts and Sciences flourished
By his patronage, and
The conduct of civil life was improved
By his example.

The aqueduct, in fact, forms part of a projected main line of canal from the Mersey at Ellesmere Port and the Dee at Chester to the Severn at





5.—LOOKING OUT FROM THE SOUTHERN ENTRANCE OF CHIRK TUNNEL AT A TYPICAL STRETCH OF THE OLD ELLESMORE CANAL

Shrewsbury, with branches to Llangollen, to Ellesmere and Whitchurch, and to Welshpool and Newtown. The proposed sections between Pontcysylltau and Chester, and between Weston and Shrewsbury, however, were not completed. In order to link the canal with the rest of the inland waterway system, the proprietors eventually carried out the more modest work of extending the Whitchurch branch eastwards to join the Chester Canal at Hurleston. The system eventually became the property of the Shropshire Union Railways and Canal Company, which was in turn absorbed by the London and North-Western Railway, now the London Midland and Scottish. It has thus shared the fate of too many railway-owned waterways.

When I first travelled over the canal in 1930, the section between Welsh Frankton and Llangollen, though much frequented by pleasure craft, was seldom used commercially. There was, however, regular trade, chiefly in coal, from the junction at Hurleston through the Welshpool and Newtown. Though the available draught was somewhat restricted, the canal was in fair order. In 1936 a portion of the canal bank between Frankton and Welshpool blew out. This damage has never been repaired, and consequently traffic automatically ceased. In 1943, the railway company obtained powers of abandonment upon the grounds that there was no longer any traffic. Under these powers the Company reserved the right to admit pleasure craft to such sections as might remain open, but as they also surrendered responsibility for bridge maintenance to the local highway authorities, who are not obliged to maintain navigable headroom, this concession was of little value.

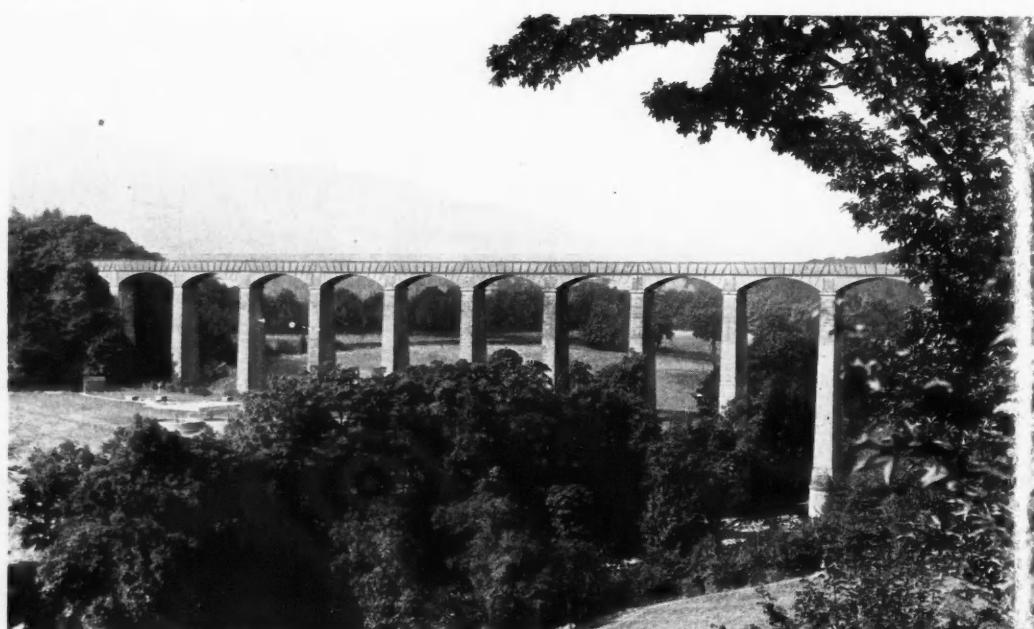
Last summer I attempted to navigate my canal boat *Cressy* up to Llangollen. We struggled through a dense growth of weeds, hauled with block and tackle over scours of silt deposited by small streams and through locks whose side walls had become distorted by the action of frost. Eventually we reached Ellesmere, but beyond this the weed was so dense and the water so low that we could not go farther.

The canal should not be abandoned entirely, because it is an important channel of water supply not only serving rural users all along the route but feeding the main line of the Shropshire Union Canal between Audlem and Ellesmere Port. Traffic on the canal in 1930 was quite sufficient to keep down the growth of weeds. Since traffic has been driven off, weed growth has been such that unless measures of restoration are soon taken the canal will be useless, not merely for navigation but also as a water-supply channel. Last summer the growth of weed so choked the channel that water could no longer flow down. At Llangollen the canal was full and water was running to waste over the weirs, yet at New Marton, twelve miles away on the same level, the water was eighteen inches below normal—this in spite of weed-cutting operations, which must cost in labour as much as or more than was necessary to maintain the waterway when it was in regular use. As a consequence of this, not only were farmers along the canal short of water for their cattle,

but a serious shortage developed on the main line of canal, to amend which water had to be let down the locks from the higher Tyreley-Wolverhampton level, from which it could be spared. Moreover, the canal has become practically useless for the fishermen who pay the Company for their fishing rights. "There ought to be more like you," was the remark we heard over and over again from disgruntled anglers on the towpath as we struggled up to Ellesmere.

It has been seriously suggested that the solution of this problem is to lay pipes down the bed of the canal and fill it in. Apart from the capital cost of this work, it would result in the total loss not only of one of the most beautiful waterways in Britain, but of a unique monument of engineering genius. The Ellesmere Canal is a unique part of our national heritage, and there are many who think, as I do, that to convert it into a pipe-line would be an act of vandalism almost unparalleled. The restoration of the waterway would not entail any extravagant expenditure. Initially, it would involve the repair of five locks, the dredging of certain scours and shallows, and systematic weed-cutting. The waterway should then once again be used by commercial craft. Even if this traffic was light and, in the narrow sense, uneconomic, it would serve a dual purpose by maintaining the efficiency of the canal as a channel of water supply. Furthermore, the waterway would then earn revenue in tolls from the many owners of pleasure craft in the Wolverhampton, Manchester and Liverpool areas who once used the canal but are now deterred from doing so owing to the sorry state into which it has fallen. The capital cost of piping this canal would cover not only such a programme of restoration, but many years of maintenance as well, apart from any question of revenue earned. Meanwhile, it is important that no bridges should be reconstructed by local authorities in such a way as to obstruct navigation, and there is a strong case for suggesting that Telford's magnificent aqueducts at Chirk and Pont Cysylltau should be scheduled for preservation as national monuments. I may add that these views are supported by the Inland Waterways Association.

The photographs illustrating this article, with the exception of Fig. 6, which is by Judges' Limited, are by Angela Rolt.



6.—PONT CYSYLLTAU, THE GREAT AQUEDUCT, DESIGNED BY TELFORD TO CARRY THE WATERS OF THE CANAL ACROSS THE VALE OF LLANGOLLEN

A RHODESIAN SETTLER'S HOME

By JOAN WAKE



1.—VIGILA FROM THE DRIVE. (Right) 2.—VIEW FROM THE ALOE GARDEN AT THE BACK OF THE HOUSE

IN 1925 Major Godwin Wake went out to Southern Rhodesia and decided to settle in the hilly district dominated by the Mvurkwe Mountains, some 60 to 70 miles north of Salisbury—part of the Mashona Land of former days. This is a fine rolling country between 4,000 and 5,000 feet above sea level, well sprinkled with trees, interspersed with frequent kopjes of granite outcrop, and watered by many streams. Major Wake bought an estate of about 3,000 acres, named it Vigila, and developed it as a tobacco farm with mealies and monkey-nuts as subsidiary crops.

The typical English settler's house in the Colony has little or no architectural pretensions, consisting normally of a one-storeyed whitewashed building with projecting roof on one side supported on rectangular red-brick piers to form a verandah. In the Union of South Africa a contrast is at once observable. Here Dutch influence prevails and there is a good traditional style of building even in the most unpretentious little houses.

During his first year at Vigila, Major Wake lived in a pole and daub hut of the native type. He then built himself a three-roomed cottage of unburnt brick, but he always had something more ambitious in mind, and the war, which prevented him from taking his usual holiday in the slack season, gave him his opportunity. He was his own architect and builder. Stone was unobtainable. Apart from the ruined castle at Zimbabwe and the Anglican Cathedral at Salisbury, there are few buildings of stone in the Colony, but by 1941, when Major Wake, at the age of 62 and without any technical training, started operations, he had mastered the art of brick-laying, had taught it to his native labourers, and had built his own tobacco barns. The bricks for his house, known as "slop bricks," he made on his estate as other

farmers do. A deep pocket of earth near a stream is selected, the earth is dug and made into a huge mud-pie which is put into moulds. The contents of the moulds are tipped out on to the ground and covered with dried grass. When sufficiently dry they are burnt in kilns of 30,000 to 40,000 at a time and emerge as reddish-pink bricks ready for use.

Though it is symmetrical in design, no ground plans or elevations were made or used in the construction of Vigila. The walls were built by the native labourers under Major Wake's direction, but the gables, arches, fireplaces—in fact, all the difficult parts—he built with his own hands. When the walls were finished, the exterior brickwork was coated with cream-coloured plaster made of lime and sand, and marked off into rectangular divisions hardly distinguishable from stonework. A red-tiled roof was attempted but abandoned as it was not watertight in the rainy season. The present roof of corrugated iron painted a dark red is not only completely weatherproof, but surprisingly pleasing to the eye. This type of roofing is now very common throughout South Africa, having replaced thatch even on most of the charming old Dutch houses in Cape Province.

Perhaps the most ingenious feature of the interior of Vigila is the construction of the floors, which look like dark slate tiling similar to that used between the stone flags in the halls of Georgian houses. They are made of sheets of cement marked out into squares 10 in. by 10 in., then covered with a solution of weak glue mixed with finely powdered wood cinders, and finished off with black polish. The result is most effective.

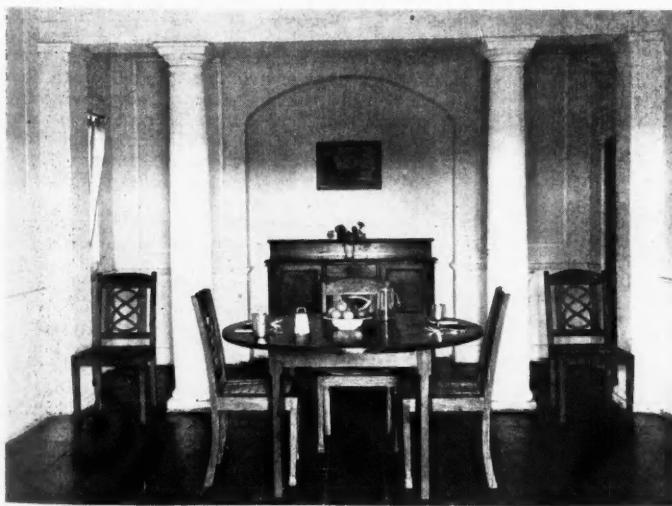
The great enemy in this country is the white ant, which makes it essential to avoid the use of wood wherever possible. The door and window-frames (which were bought ready-made

and are almost the only part of the house not made on the estate) are therefore of iron, and the wainscoting and mantelpieces of cement, wood being employed only for the doors and frames, joists, and the strips of the imitation wood-paneling, such indeed as was used by the Georgian architects in England. The interior walls of the house are covered with lime-washed "daga" (earth mixed with water into a paste), the wash being of two different tints in the panelled dining-room and parlour. Improvements have been introduced from time to time, and there is now an excellent hot-and-cold-water system (plumbing by Major Wake). Electric light has recently been installed.

The furniture was made by the estate carpenter (a native) to Major Wake's designs, out of dark-coloured close-grained Rhodesian woods. The most distinctive pieces are the four-poster bed (made to carry the light mosquito curtains necessary in this region) and the dining-room chairs, the backs of which are formed of the Wake Knot in a vertical position, as sometimes used on commemorative monuments in the 18th century (Fig. 3).

The central portion of the house was completed in 1941, and the wings and rose-garden in 1944, just before the builder was overtaken by a serious illness, which unfortunately prevented him from putting the finishing touch to the whole. The date-stone and coat of arms over the front door had to be put up for him by his native mason, whose eye was not as straight as perhaps might have been desired. Readers of COUNTRY LIFE who may care to turn to two articles on Courteenhall, Northamptonshire (August 12 and 19, 1939) will recognise the source of part at least of the inspiration which led to the building of Vigila.

(Photographs by Atelier, Salisbury, S.R.)



4.—THE PARLOUR, WITH "GEORGIAN" APSIDAL END
(Left) 3.—DINING-ROOM FURNITURE OF NATIVE WOOD

WOODEN IGNITION & LIGHTING APPLIANCES

By EDWARD PINTO

ALTHOUGH man solved the problem of fire-making at a comparatively early stage, the methods employed were tedious. Fire-making developed on four different lines:—

- (1) A controlled version of Nature's sun-caused conflagrations by introduction of a burning glass.
- (2) Striking a flint with a nodule of iron pyrites.
- (3) Wood friction methods.
- (4) The fire piston.

The first never developed into any modern invention, but the second, when man learnt to smelt iron, resulted in flint and steel being used in conjunction with tinder boxes which, in their most advanced forms, became tinder pistols and eventually tinder lighters; the latter, by refinement and changing their tinder for wicks and petrol, have become petrol lighters. The third was improved by coating the striking surfaces of the wood with chemical compounds, thus forming friction matches, and the fourth, invented quite early by primitive people and confined to South-east Asia and the East Indies, consisted of a small cylinder, closed at one end, in which was placed a minute piece of tinder and a tight-fitting removable piston; the piston, on being placed in the cylinder, was struck a sharp blow and immediately withdrawn when the air compression and engendered heat had ignited the tinder. Fire pistons were usually made of horn or wood; a wooden specimen is shown in the foreground of Fig. 1. The principle was rediscovered and patented in Britain in 1807, when fire pistons or syringes were made in steel and brass.

The inconveniences of tinder boxes were manifest: damp defeated, strong draughts delayed them. They often had to be operated in darkness, and though a light was obtained occasionally in less than three minutes, under unfavourable conditions it sometimes took up to half an hour. It is not, therefore, surprising that even in this country it was common to keep a fire burning all the year round until friction matches became general. There were much earlier so-called matches, but they did



1.—SELECTION OF INSTANTANEOUS LIGHT CONTRIVANCES, WITH WOODEN FIRE PISTON IN THE FOREGROUND

not strike: they were sulphur-tipped strips of wood, cardboard, paper, woven cotton or straw, which were adjuncts of the tinder box and were, in fact, secondary tinder for conveying flame from the smouldering basic tinder to candle, rushlight or smoker's pipe. The tinder usually employed in domestic tinder boxes was charred linen rags, but dry grass, powdered leaves, rotten wood, down from birds, and amadou were all used. Amadou, or German tinder, is a fungus which grows on dead trees and when prepared looks like brown wash-leather.

The numerous devices that intervened between tinder and flint methods and friction matches were known collectively as "instantaneous light contrivances." Among the earliest was the "phosphorus box," invented in Italy in 1786. It contained a bottle of phosphorus and sulphur-tipped matches which, when dipped in the bottle, ignited. An improved version, introduced into England from France about 1810, had the bottle filled with sulphuric acid and the matches tipped with a hard paste, composed of potassium chlorate, sugar and gum. The majority of English boxes are tin, but a few

wooden examples, mostly stamped "Berry's Patent," survived. A selection of them, dating from 1810 to 1835, is reproduced in Fig. 1. The rosewood box (left) is the French patent. Its lid, secured by hit-and-miss projections, has an inner ring into which the neck of the glass bottle containing the acid is forced tightly by a spring. The outer ring contains three compartments for candles, two for matches and two of unknown purpose. Next to it is an early-English box of *lignum vitæ*, with screw lid. The bottle of acid, which is missing, fitted into the inner wood rim, and the matches surrounded it in the outer ring. The next two, one shown open and one closed, are "Berry's Patents." They are "turned" from *lignum vitæ*, and match and acid compartments have separate lids in order to minimise the risk of firing the lot when dipping one match in the acid.

The need for tinder boxes and instantaneous light contrivances ceased soon after 1826, when John Walker, a Stockton-on-Tees chemist, invented and sold his first "friction" lights at 1s. per box of 50, including a piece of sandpaper, between the folds of which the match-head was inserted sharply, causing it to ignite—provided the head remained attached. Initially the invention achieved little popularity and Walker sold only 250 boxes in the first 2½ years. Little over a century later, no fewer than 8,640,000,000 were sold in Great Britain within a similar period. Walker, indentured to become a doctor, abandoned medicine for chemistry and during his fire-making experiments a stick, which had been dipped in a composition of potassium chlorate and antimony sulphide, ignited when rubbed accidentally and gave birth to his invention. Walker's matches contained no phosphorus.

Phosphorus matches were introduced to England by German and Austrian chemists about 1830, and their greater ease in striking gained them quick popularity. Their liability to spontaneous combustion from a knock or through exposure to warmth was so great, however, that it strictly limited them to home use and urgently necessitated provision of special containers, known as protective match boxes. These, like instantaneous light contrivances, were mostly metal, but as Figs. 1 and 3 show, a good variety were of hardwood. The resemblance between the two types of cases goes closer still, for Berry, finding his instantaneous light contrivances superseded by phosphorus matches, converted some of the former into protective match boxes, by substituting a circular striker for the acid bottle in the centre compartment. All the protective match boxes on the shelf in Fig. 2 were made about 1840 and have glass-paper strikers recessed under their bases. The two large *lignum vitæ* boxes (left) and the Tunbridgeware example (right) have candle-holders on the lids; the others have central bosses of bone, mother-of-pearl or brass, for holding a single match. This was used while getting in or out of bed after extinguishing, or before lighting, the gas.



2.—SOME VARIETIES OF PROTECTIVE MATCH BOXES; PERIOD 1840 ON THE SHELF AND 1840-60 BELOW

or for sealing letters. These bosses also occur near the edge of the lid on some examples that have central candles. The specimens at the bottom of Fig. 2, also with glass-paper under the bases, illustrate, from left to right, designs from 1840 to 1860. The barrel on the left follows string-box designs of the period; the "top" on the right shows most originality.

The boxes in Fig. 3 cover roughly the same period, but have turned rings instead of glass-paper to act as strikers. The box on the left has rings in the lid. In the two ebony turrets the masonry joints act as strikers. The small *lignum vitae* and the three Tunbridge-ware boxes have striker rings under their bases. Unlike the others, which have a single compartment, the Tunbridge-ware boxes were designed primarily as sealing outfits; as is evident from the one shown open, they all have divisions for matches, signet and candle in the body of the cylinder, a compartment for wax wafers in the base and candle and match-holders on the lid. The three shown in Fig. 3, made about 1860, show how design and workmanship deteriorated after the 1840 Tunbridge-ware specimen illustrated in Fig. 2; mouldings had coarsened, repeats of the mosaic were no longer matched on the eight sides and varnish had replaced polish. The depths to which design had fallen by 1870 is shown in the cottage on the shelf (Fig. 5, right) which has applied brass door and window frames and threshold striker. Similar use is made of brass mounts on the smokers' companion in the same picture, but the result is amusing with the barrel for cherokees or tobacco and the cigar cutter on the tap.

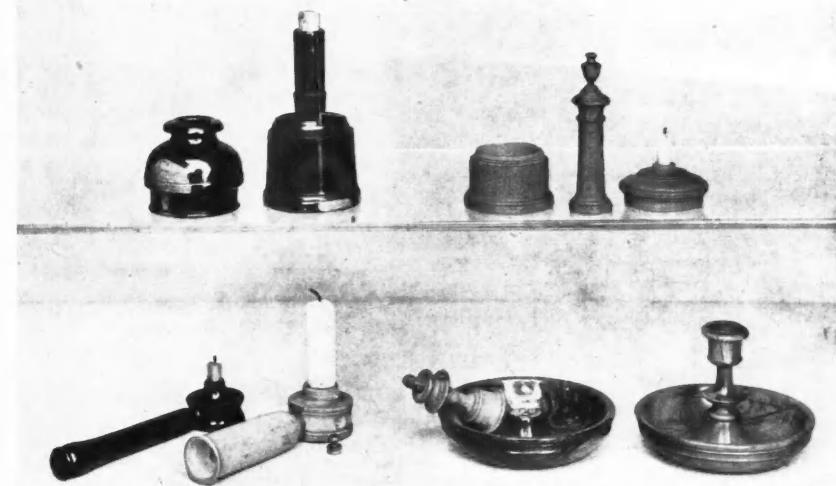
Shown closed on the shelf in Fig. 3 is a number of ingenious travelling candlesticks and match holders. That on the extreme left, made of *lignum vitae*, may well be one of Berry's conversions of an instantaneous light contrivance. The second, a Regency rosewood candlestick, has a threaded nipple on the cover, which converts into a handle by screwing into a socket in the base. The third, a later boxwood example, extends the idea further by including a small receptacle for matches in the base and a glass-paper striker under. The urn on the summit of the fourth forms a boss for a match and the base forms a large match container, with striker beneath. The fifth consists of two olivewood saucers, one with threaded pin and the other with threaded socket, which engage together for travelling. These specimens are shown open in Fig. 4.

Of the 18th-century night-light holders at the bottom of Fig. 5, one is a brass-lined Georgian mahogany tambour example of about 1780 and the other, carved from red elm, comes from Hindeloopen, Friesland. Similar patterns occur in pottery and were used for keeping food warm; doubtless the wooden counter-parts performed the same function.

The necessity of maintaining the wavering light of a candle at the optimum level initiated various devices to compensate for the diminishing height of a candle. The 18th-century adjustable candle-stand on the left of Fig. 6, shown seating a *lignum vitae* candlestick of the same period, was the most commonly used. The mahogany candlestick, adjustable on the same principle, was the most practical, though, curiously, much rarer. The small boxwood double candlestick of about



3.—TRAVELLING CANDLESTICKS CLOSED, AND PROTECTIVE MATCH BOXES WITH TURNED RING STRIKERS



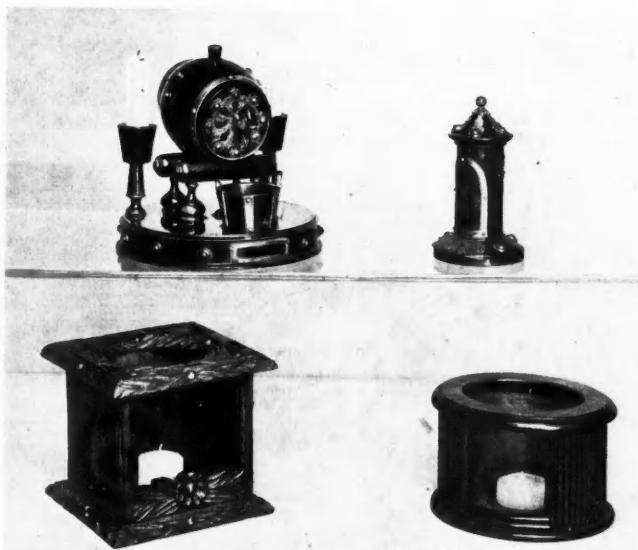
4.—TRAVELLING CANDLESTICKS, OPEN

1780, with three dainty spreading feet, is interesting by reason of the alternate rush nip in the centre, the method of height adjustment, common in metal but unusual in wood, and the automatic candle-end ejectors, actuated by pressing upwards the knobs under the holders.

The examples illustrated are in the

author's collection. The history of fire and light making, is displayed at the Science Museum, South Kensington.

The ethnographical collections at the British Museum and the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Oxford, contain examples of native fire-making appliances from various parts of the world.



5.—(On the shelf) SMOKERS' COMPANION AND PROTECTIVE MATCH BOX OF 1870: (below), DUTCH AND ENGLISH NIGHT-LIGHT HOLDERS. (Right) 6.—ADJUSTABLE CANDLE-STAND, ADJUSTABLE CANDLESTICK AND ADJUSTABLE DOUBLE CANDLESTICK AND RUSH NIP



Photographs by Sydney W. Newbery.

No. 9, THE CIRCUS, BATH—II

THE HOME OF LIEUT.-COL. LEO JENNER

Dating from about 1765, the house is probably the most perfect re-creation of an early 18th-century town house to be found in England

By CHRISTOPHER HUSSEY

CONTRASTING conditions in houses at Bath in 1765 with those existing forty years earlier, when his father began transforming the city, the younger Wood described, in the later edition of the *Bath Guide*, how immeasurably their furnishing and comfort had improved. His list of innovations implied how bleak the accommodation must formerly have been, and gives a generalised picture of the average lodging-house rooms in Bath at the time No. 9, The Circus was yet new. Carpets, he says, had been introduced, although floors were of finest clean deal or Dutch oak boards; the rooms were all wainscoted and painted in a costly and handsome manner; marble slabs "and even chimney-pieces" became common; doors were not only substantial but had the best brass locks fitted. Walnut chairs upholstered in leather or damask or needlework had replaced those seated with rush or cane; walnut and mahogany replaced oak furniture; "handsome glasses were added to dressing tables, nor did the proper chimneys or piers of any of the rooms long remain without well-framed mirrors of no inconsiderable size; and the furniture of every chimney-piece was composed of a brass fender, with tongs, poker, and shovel agreeable to it." Beds, window curtains, and chamber furniture were renewed "with such as were more fit for gentlemen's capital seats than for common lodgings." In 1765, the best rooms in a house let for ten



1.—THE INFORMAL BACKS OF THE CIRCUS

shillings a week each in the season, 7s. 6d. between seasons.

No. 9, The Circus was never a lodging-house but one of the choicest of private houses, the property of the Duke of Chandos's heir. In the 19th century it belonged to Lord Leighton, P.R.A., whose father was a doctor in Bath. To-day its rooms are furnished and decorated exactly as, reading Wood's description, the most vivid imagination could

idealise the domestic setting of Gainsborough's Bath ladies and gentlemen and the originals of Sheridan's more reputable characters.

Their manifest fitness "for gentlemen's capital seats" is thus not only historically correct but hints at the origin of Col. and Mrs. Jenner's remarkable assembly of early Georgian works of art. Most of it was gradually brought together at Avebury Manor, Wiltshire, the home of Col. and Mrs.

Jenner from 1902 till 1937 at a time when choice examples of the late 17th and 18th century could still be bought fairly reasonably and the taste for such things was less widespread than it became. Indeed, among amateurs, they were something of pioneers in the art of what the French call *ensemble*, besides possessing fine discrimination and practical knowledge of many branches of craftsmanship. But what gave Avebury its particular distinction was Mrs. Jenner's remarkable artistry, particularly with her needle, though equally in the handling of colours in the arrangement of rooms.

It is the fruit of a lifetime's cultivation of these fields that is garnered in the relatively restricted space of 9, The Circus. The drawing-room in particular (Figs. 2, 3 and 4) is doubly remarkable, not only for the richness of its presentation of a Queen Anne room but as being the product of the last forty years. Not only do we visitors have the illusion of passing into a world of some two hundred years ago—as if we entered a room in 1747 furnished by somebody whose possessions had been mostly acquired and inherited while Queen Anne was alive—but we also know that the effect is a re-creation, achieved by virtually thinking and working in the ways of that age, while Edward VII and George V were alive. That makes it a work of imaginative and technical art. For the contents of the room are by no means all antique. The painted hangings that set the key of classical romance were executed by Mrs. Jenner herself, painting on the canvas with dyes in place of pigments; some of the needlework on the chairs is hers; and the room contains several examples of her exquisite stumpwork embroidery—for instance the little cabinet and mirror in Fig. 7.

The general colouring of the room—which overlooks the green and grey Circus—is dark green and golden browns. The ceiling (Fig. 4)—modelled with naturalistic and slightly Rococo sprays probably by Thomas Stocking, of Bristol—is white, but the walls are William and Mary green, and greens predominate in the painted cloths and, with rosy brown, in the old Persian carpet. Much of the furniture is lacquered in warm blacks and gold, notably the chest supported by gilded wyverns which closely resemble others performing the same service to a chest at Kimbolton of c. 1740. The grandfather clock in the corner has a case painted to



2.—THE DRAWING-ROOM CHIMNEY-PIECE

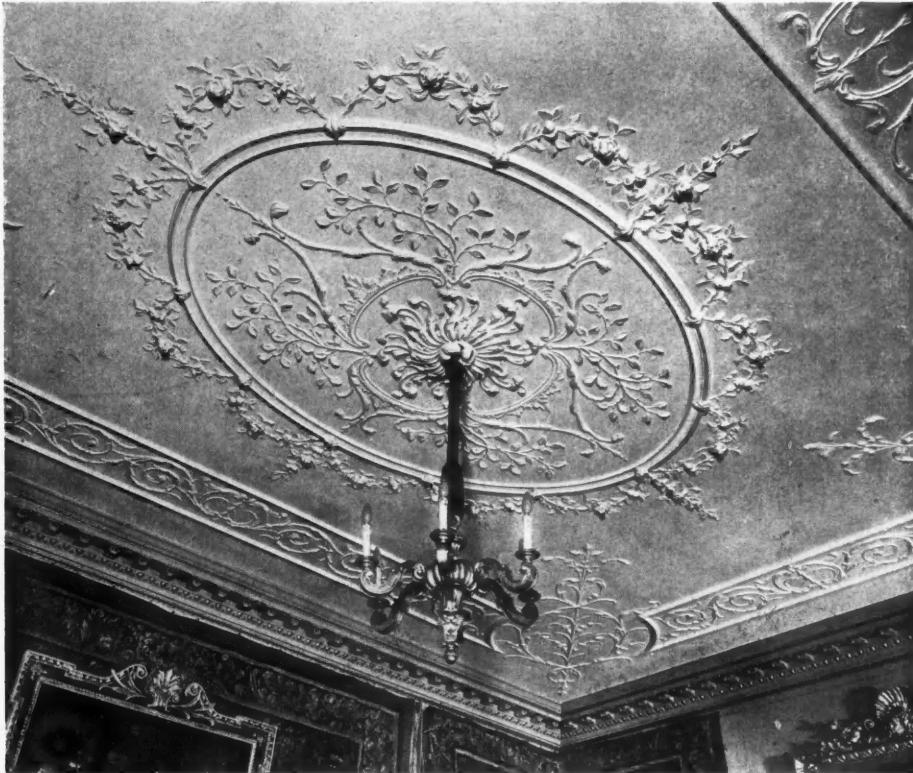


3.—THE DRAWING-ROOM. Hung with painted cloths executed by Mrs. Jenner, on green walls. The furnishing assembles many exquisite pieces of c. 1700

represent lacquer in deep brown, cream and Indian red. Those are the tints of the walnut furniture—the two mirrors beside the fireplace and the William and Mary marquetry table in the middle of the room. The same colours come into one of the gilded William Kent frames of flower pieces, and the gros-point needlework of the elbow-chairs, but the worn velvet of the stately chair on the left is crimson shot with violet. The profusely *orné* chimney-piece, which came from a house in Grosvenor Square, London, is of carved wood surfaced to look like stone. Here and there points of light are reflected in cut glass or sconce, or darkly in the old mirrors, and brighter colours glint in the stained ivory of several elaborate sets of chessmen and the silks of Mrs. Jenner's incredible needlework.

The adjoining bedroom's colouring is as brilliant as the drawing-room's is richly sombre, for it is hung with a Chinese paper painted with the most spectacular fowls. The background is a pale neutral grey arabesqued with grotesque rocks and slender shoots of jade-green bamboos and pines and roses and tree paeonies, in full flower, denized with gorgeous pheasants, peacocks, cranes, and cockyolly birds, besides smaller but no less iridescent birds. Above the fireplace are two particularly *éclatant* cocks, one with rich brilliant blue plumage, the other a fantasy of orange and yellow and red.

Only an extraordinary bed could stand up to this dazzling background. It is a



4.—THE DRAWING-ROOM CEILING. Probably executed by Thomas Stocking, of Bristol

magnificent mahogany Chippendale one with elaborate carved cresting around a low dome, carved posts and cabriole lion-masked feet, hung with sea-grey figured silk. The other furniture is of the solid character demanded by the wall decoration and of excellent quality, especially the mahogany waistcoat press beside the fireplace with serpentine panels and squat feet, of the type illustrated in some of Chippendale's *Director* designs.

The bedroom windows overlook the garden (Fig. 1) running back a considerable distance southwards. On this side of the trellis, in the photograph, steps descend to a square lawn centred in a handsome urn. The varied back elevations of the houses present a fantastic contrast to the uniformity of their fronts. The bays and bows of every shape and size, some of them battlemented, literally show the other side of Georgian formality—a delight in irregularity for its own sake that was already beginning to become a cult, though here essentially functional and handled with irreproachable neatness.

Col. Jenner's bedroom on the second floor (Fig. 5) has bolection wainscot brought from a house in Dartmouth—of the same date and solid grace as the noble punchbowl made for the Newfoundland merchants of the same town recently illustrated in COUNTRY LIFE, and, one may fancy, perhaps put up for one of them. It is notable for the excellent treatment of the chimney-piece, providing a shelf usually lacking from the bolection pattern of

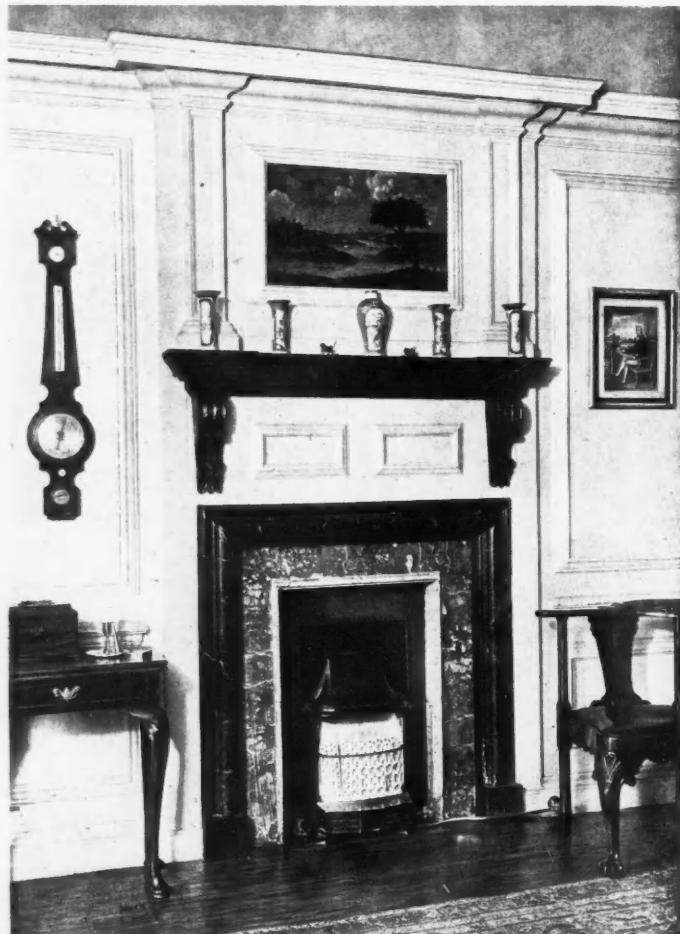


5.—COL. JENNER'S BEDROOM. The bed is hung with original scarlet rep

fireplaces, and here painted a dark marble against the white wainscot. Students of such things may note that it was copied by Col. R. E. Cooper at Julians, Hertfordshire, illustrated last summer. The bed, mahogany posted, of the late 18th century, has its

original hangings of red rep with brown fringe, and was always in Avebury Manor house which the forbears of its previous owner, Mr. Jones, had possessed since 1760.

In these articles only the most cursory reference has been made to individual pieces



6.—CHIMNEY-PIECE IN THE SAME ROOM



7.—MIRROR AND CASKET EMBROIDERED BY MRS. JENNER



8.—THE PRINCIPAL BEDROOM; SEA-GREY HANGINGS; GREY CHINESE WALLPAPER WITH BRILLIANTLY COLOURED BIRDS AND FOLIAGE

of furniture, some of which it is hoped to illustrate in detail subsequently. But, having taken in the general effect of this exquisite house, it is worth looking again at Mrs. Jenner's mirror and casket, for the essence of these rooms' character is concentrated in the design and fashioning of this embroidery. But for the freshness of the colours and the glitter of the sequins incorporated, it seems incredible that the work is not by some lady of the Restoration. Even the petit-point picture of Avebury at the base of the mirror frame might be of that age. One need not be an expert on stitchery to be held spell-bound by these figures and flowers and animals worked in high relief in all manner of stitches. As in 17th-century work, her designs seem spontaneous, no minute part of the design repeating itself for repetition's sake, yet each whole is a unity. Then one's eye wanders to the broad, assured brushwork of the hangings behind the mirror, where every touch of the full brush had to be final, since there is no correction possible when you are painting in dyes.

The two achievements, so opposite technically, clearly have in common an extraordinary appreciation for—an uncanny affinity with—the spirit of the English Renaissance age. It is this affinity that, in the larger medium of finding, acquiring, and assembling furniture, has created at No. 9, The Circus so complete an illusion of early Georgian existence and, in its kind, so complete a work of art.



9.—Pheasants, blue and silver, and gold and scarlet, burst through jade-green foliage and pink roses on the grey-background Chinese paper

COURTSHIP-FEEDING OF THE CROSSBILL

Written and Illustrated by ERIC HOSKING and D. NETHERSOLE-THOMPSON

ORNITHOLOGY has few stories to compare with that of the crossbill invasions. Even in mediæval times a chronicler told of these strange parrot-like birds, which, like the Vikings of old, had crossed the North Sea in their hundreds. Writing in 1251, Matthew Paris, a monk of St. Albans, described an irruption of crossbills and the havoc wrought by them in the cider-orchards of Southern England. "About the fruit season," he said, "there appeared in the orchards chiefly some remarkable birds which had never before been seen in England. Somewhat larger than larks which ate the kernel of fruit and nothing else whereby the trees were fruitless to the loss of many. The beaks of the birds were crossed." This delightful piece of bird news from the quiet cloister of a monastery is illustrated by a crude drawing of one of the birds. Many other similar stories could be told which seem to step straight out of the life of other ages, but we will confine ourselves to saying that every three to ten years these great invasions occur and that it is one of the mysteries of bird-life that, while so many have witnessed their incoming, no man has ever recorded an exodus from Britain.

Everything about crossbills is fascinating and distinctive. In the course of countless centuries even the beaks of the various races have been adapted and evolved to deal with whatever kind of food they eat. Thus the parrot-crossbills, of the great forests of Lapland and the Far North, have deep, massive and powerful beaks to wrench apart the hard pine-cones upon which they feed, whereas the spruce-cone-eating common crossbills of the European Continent have slighter bills. It is interesting to speculate upon the origin of our native Scottish birds, whose beaks are intermediate in size between the two, and which, like parrot-crossbills, have a staple diet of pine cones. This is particularly pertinent, as these Highland forests of ours are probably the last remaining British relic of the vast tracts of birch scrub and pinewood which grew up after the Ice Age. Are our Scottish birds, then, the descendants of some wave of common crossbills of long ago which colonised and gradually adapted themselves to a new diet or are they parrot-crossbills whose beaks have gradually become smaller owing to softer pine cones?

That is one of the many problems of crossbill evolution.

These birds also have their place in mythology. There is a sacred legend that the crossbill's beak became crossed when one plucked a nail from the Saviour's hand as He suffered on the Cross.

Most bird-lovers began to watch crossbills in the wonderful Breckland district that lies on



1.—A HEN CROSSBILL ON HER NEST IN A SCOTCH PINE

the marches of the sister counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridge. To-day, crossbills regularly breed there, on dust-sullied roadside pine belts, and no man knows whether this stock, which largely sustains itself upon pine cones, could permanently survive without the fresh blood infused by sporadic invasion or irruption. It is clear, however, that Coke and the other pioneers of forestry have directly changed bird-life in that glorious country.

This article concerns the birds of Highland forests, and these Scottish birds have an enthralling history. The pioneer ornithologists of the 19th century followed them to the woods of Ross-shire and into the great forests of Strathspey. E. T. Booth tells of their nesting and numbers and his experiences are given in inimitable style and with a wealth of detailed anecdote. W. McGillivray wrote: "In the autumn of 1821, when walking from Aberdeen to Elgin I had the pleasure of observing a flock of several hundred crossbills busily engaged in splitting the seeds of berries which hung in clusters upon a clump of rowan trees," and, in notes sent to Henry Dresser, for use in his voluminous *Birds of Europe*, J. Harvie-Brown said: "In Inverness it breeds in the forest of Rothiemurchus and on the banks of the River Spey. It was here that Mr. Hancock saw a nest at so great a height that it could not be procured." It is also known that Lewis Dunbar, notorious for his robbing of ospreys' nests, took eggs in Strathspey as long ago as 1848.

Is it not amazing, then, that with a great background of known fact to guide them, neither the pioneers nor their successors ever worked out the life-history of the birds? Bird literature contains indeed no connected account of the biology of any race of crossbill anywhere in the world. It was to tell that story that one of us has toiled and striven for thirteen years in the woods and clearings of the deer forests of Abernethy and Rothiemurchus. What a delightful task it has been! Year after year, in all kinds of weather, even before the snows of winter went, the crossbill flocks have been followed wherever they wandered. Gradually the story has taken shape, and now the main secrets of a wonderful bird's behaviour have been revealed.

The crossbill's pairing is unusual. There are those extraordinarily animated ceremonial flocks or assemblies from which most pairs are formed, but pairing can also be accomplished in another way. A cock may establish himself in a special part of a wood, where he sings and calls, and sometimes he successfully secures a mate, thus proving that two separate and distinct methods of pairing can exist in the same species of bird.

The story of no bird is complete until its nesting has been photographed, and we had hoped to do this



2.—"WHAT AN AMAZING SIGHT IT WAS TO SEE THE HEN BEG FOOD FROM HER MATE"

some years ago. A pylon hide was laboriously raised beside a nest in a small weathered pine in a swamp. But on the eve of the adventure the young disappeared, and it was not until this year that we succeeded in our mission.

It was a difficult year for crossbills and for other birds as well. The devastating winter frost and snow had destroyed many crested tits and other small resident birds, and, although there were a few nomad parties of crossbills, few appeared to be breeding. As late as May 24 cocks were feeding hens in a flock that moved about without sign of dispersal. Pairs were closely observed, but a nest was sought in vain. May 27 was one of those early summer days when it is good to be alive. Beside a great loch in the heart of Strathspey sandpipers were calling, and in the distance a greenshank sang. Redstarts and tree-pipits were everywhere, and drake goosanders swam on placid waters. Suddenly, a pair of crossbills, with lifting flight, flew overhead, and so prepossessed did they appear that we immediately followed them. The cock, very smart in his red livery, perched on the spray of a pine tree. A minute later we heard the unmistakable chittering of a hen crossbill at home, and there, as we ran through the rank heather, was the nest near the top of a pine tree!

There is no need to describe how a tall pylon hide, over thirty feet in height, was erected under the supervision of our friend George Edwards. The nest, upon which the hen crossbill was brooding (Fig. 1), contained three eggs, two of which hatched on June 5; the third disappeared mysteriously during the



3.—“OPEN-BILLED, SHE LEANED TOWARDS HIM ALMOST IN AN AGONY OF SUPPLICATION.” (Left) 4.—THE COCK CROSSBILL FEEDING HIS MATE



hatch and may have been ejected by the sitting bird. Before commencing photography and observation we spent several mornings watching the birds and noticed that the cock appeared at long intervals to call the hen from her brooding.

The first afternoon in the hide was disappointing. Almost immediately the cock called off his mate, and she was away fully two hours. Next day it was different. As we climbed to our station the crossbill's head peered over the edge of the nest, and once in position we could watch everything from a distance of a few feet.

Crossbills are the tamest of birds. One of us remembers a hen which not only allowed him to stroke and lift her from the nest but returned time after time to sit on his fingers. This bird was almost as tame. From time to time she raised her head and the young stretched up their necks beneath her, but how placid and serene she was as she sat there! At 1 p.m. the cock “chipped” and the drab-green hen settled beside him, fluttering her wings as she begged food. After he had fed her they both bounded away, but half an hour later she returned, and crept almost mouse-like through the thick foliage at the top of the tree. The chicks, blind and helpless, raised great maws towards her, but ignoring them she brooded on. The next movement came at 2.20. This time the cock visited the nest. There was a moment of high excitement, in which the hen stood up and rapidly quivered her wings as with open bill

she solicited food. The cock, as is the way of good fathers, fed her and his children and, this done, left both. Again and again the hen half rose to adjust the young and nest-lining, and at 3.5 she fed her family, giving them a long meal of molten pine-seeds. Almost exactly one hour later the cock had returned, and once again he was joined by his mate. When she came home, some fifty minutes afterwards, she threatened a cock chaffinch, opening her bill in the characteristic threat-pose of hen crossbills.

It is always a pretty sight to watch birds tidy their nests and to see them attend to the sanitation of their chicks. Several times we saw her stand on the nest side to prod the chicks before taking the excretory sacs (Fig. 5), which she consumed. Then she slept, bill-on-shoulder, a perfect picture of mother-love.

The last story of the day came at 6.15, when the cock fed his mate at the nest. What an amazing sight it was to see her beg food! (Fig. 2) Mere words ill describe the passions that those vibrating wings express. Open-billed, she leaned towards him almost in an agony of supplication (Fig. 3). This practice of courtship feeding is carried out by crossbills in their pairing and sex life, during incubation, and while they are rearing young.

This year so poor and sparse was the cone-crop that these birds obviously found it difficult to secure enough seed to sustain their brood and themselves. Visits to the nest were thus made at very long intervals, but the series of photographs which one of us obtained is believed to be the first ever secured of the wonderful courtship-feeding displays of these fascinating birds. Taken by high-speed flash at 1/10,000ths of a second, they illustrate the main incidents recorded at the nest, and, together with the observations from the hide, add materially, we venture to think, to our knowledge of the Scottish crossbill.



5.—THE HEN SWALLOWING A FAECAL SAC FROM ONE OF THE YOUNG

HOW FAR CAN A MAN JUMP?

By LIEUT.-COL. F. A. M. WEBSTER

AN article that I wrote some time ago for COUNTRY LIFE, entitled *How High Can a Man Jump?* has brought correspondence from all over the world pointing out that the Watussi warriors regularly jump heights of over 8 ft. That I know, for when serving with the King's African Rifles in Central Africa I measured the height of 8 ft. 2½ ins. which one of these warriors had cleared with the greatest ease. I am now asked to say how far a man can jump. The answer is "Heaven alone knows, but probably farther than has yet been done." I should say more than 27 ft., but athletic history must be our guide until the new record is evolved.

Back in 1834 Donald Walker was the doyen of athletic historians. He wrote *Manly Exercises* in which he said of feats of long jumping: "On level ground 20 ft. is a first-rate leap: 21 ft. is extraordinary and 22 ft. is very rarely achieved. With a run and a leap on a slightly inclined plane 23 ft. have been accomplished."

That was the opinion of the greatest athletic authority in the world more than 100 years ago. What would he say if he were told that since his days, the American Negro, Jesse Owens, has raised the world's record for the long jump to 26 ft. 8¼ ins.; that Luz Long, a German, improved the European record to 25 ft. 11 ins. in 1937, and that J. F. Lockwood, of Barnet School, holds a Public Schools record of 22 ft. 8 ins.

Many years ago I was staying in a large country house when an incident occurred which I did not witness, for I had gone to bed, but of which I was often told later.

In that house a very long passage ran from the hall to the billiard-room. When the door was open the billiard-table was end-on to the passage. On the day in question a certain Irishman made a bet that he would clear the length of the table. He sprinted down the passage at great speed, took off inside the open door and landed some feet beyond the far end of the table, thus proving, as I have since discovered, that you must get height if you want to achieve length in a long jump.

The improvement in modern long jumping is, I believe, directly traceable to natural Irish genius in the first place; in the second, to the ingenuity of the Americans in the invention of the running-in-the-air action, which the black and the yellow races have assimilated.

At the first Oxford and Cambridge Match, in 1864, the long jump was won at 18 ft. by F. H. Gooch, O.U.A.C.; the first English Championship, that of 1866, by R. Fitzherbert,

C.U.A.C., at 19 ft. 8 ins. But no inter-varsity contest since that of 1864, with the exception of that held in 1885 when A. G. Grant-Asher won at 19 ft. 10 ins., has ever been won at less than 20 ft. In the English Championship of 1873 C. L. Lockton (Fig. 1), of Merchant Taylors', performed a remarkable feat for a schoolboy by jumping over at 19 ft. 4 ins. Two years previously E. J. Davis, C.U.A.C., had tied with R. J. C. Mitchell, of Manchester A.C., at 20 ft. 4 ins.

Davis was a small, slightly built athlete. In the following year he reached 22 ft. 7 ins., but in 1874 was beaten at the Irish Civil Servants' Sports by J. Lane, who stood 5 ft. 8 ins. and weighed 11 st. 1 lb. Lane set up a new world record of 23 ft. 1½ ins. at the Trinity College Sports, Dublin, in 1874.

The first U.S.A. title, of 1876, was won by I. Frazier at 17 ft. 4 ins. In 1890 A. F. Copland, Manhatten A.C., added ¼ in. to Lane's record. In 1893, C. S. Reber, Pastime A.C., became U.S.A. champion with 23 ft. 4½ ins. In 1895, the famous Oxford University all-round sportsman, C. B. Fry (Fig. 2), raised the inter-varsity record to 23 ft. 5 ins. He

took off, however, about 9 ins. behind the take-off board, so the distance he cleared from heel mark to landing was just over 24 ft. He later equalled the world's record with a jump of 23 ft. 6½ ins. and in so doing took off exactly on the board. The statement made by a critic that "Fry had no pace, only spring" is amusing since Fry's best time for 100 yards in cold weather on a wet track was 10 secs. I agree, however, that he had great springing powers, since his best high jump was 5 ft. 10 ins.

Owing to the introduction of a wooden take-off board long-jump performances were now improving very rapidly. In 1898, the late W. J. M. Newburn, Ireland, won the English Championship and displaced Fry's record with a leap of 23 ft. 7 ins. Newburn was a big heavy fellow of great sprinting ability who later won an Irish 56 lb. weight-slinging championship. He hailed from Offalay, Westmeath border country. He had, at the Dublin Postal Sports of 1898,

cleared 23 ft. 9¾ ins.; in the Irish-Scottish International a month later he took the record up to 24 ft. 0½ in., and in July of the same year jumped 24 ft. 6¾ ins. at Mullingar; the new record, however, was not recognised. His record of 24 ft. 0½ ins. stood until 1900, when Meyer Prinstein, of Syracuse University, U.S.A., reached 24 ft. 7¼ ins.

Meanwhile a new star was rising. Wicklow-born Peter O'Connor (Fig. 3), like Newburn, was a noted sprinter and high jumper, and he too excelled at the long jump. He stood 6 ft. 1 in. and weighed 11 stones. At Ballinsole in 1896 he had jumped 22½ ft. off grass. Late in August, 1900, he jumped 24 ft. 3 ins. off grass at Barrett's Park, New Ross, and in an exhibition from a wooden take-off board achieved 24 ft. 7¾ ins. He won the Irish Championship of 1901 held at Ballsbridge, Dublin, in a downpour of rain at 24 ft. 9 ins. and the heel of his leading leg cut the clay at 25 ft. 5 ins. The Championships of the R.I.C. were also held at Ballsbridge on August 5 of the same year. There O'Connor made a world's record of 24 ft. 11¾ ins. and two days after the English Championships

actually cleared 25 ft. 0½ in. at Port Laoighise, but the record was disallowed because there was a drop of 2½ ins. in the length of the runway which, as the official surveyor stated, would not have been sufficient to alter the level of still water.

O'Connor's world's record of 24 ft. 11¾ ins. stood for two decades; but in 1912 it trembled when the U.S.A. athlete, Abel Gutterson, who stood over 6 ft. and weighed about 10 stones, took the Olympic Championship at 24 ft. 11¼ ins.

In 1921 Ned Gourdin, the Harvard Negro sprinter-long jumper, beat Harold Abrahams, C.U.A.C., with a new long-jump record of 25 ft. 3 ins.

There are two important points about O'Connor's jumping. He was a champion sprinter, which gave him speed to the take-off; his ability to win Irish high-jump titles at over 6 ft. proved the spring in his legs, and when he made his great record his leap was higher than a man's head.

H. M. Abrahams, who did not favour the running-in-the-air action, has got tremendous



1.—C. L. LOCKTON, WHO IN 1873, WHEN A SCHOOLBOY, WON THE ENGLISH TITLE WITH 19 ft. 4 ins.



2.—C. B. FRY, JUMPING 23 ft. 5 ins. IN 1895 TO SET UP AN INTER-VARSITY RECORD. He later equalled the world's record with 23 ft. 6½ ins. (Right) 3.—PETER O'CONNOR SETTING UP A WORLD'S RECORD OF 24 ft. 11¾ ins. IN 1901. His success was due to the height attained





STAGES IN THE RUNNING-IN-THE-AIR ACTION DEVELOPED WITH THE OBJECT OF PROLONGING FLIGHT

(Left to right) 4, 5, and 6.—DENNIS WATTS IN MID-AIR; JESSE OWENS, WITH THE LEGS BROUGHT TOGETHER FOR THE SHOOT-LANDING; OWENS IN THE ACT OF LANDING BY MEANS OF THE BREAK FORWARD, IN WHICH THE JUMPER GIVES AT THE KNEES AND PITCHES ON HIS HANDS

height into his jump. Both O'Connor and Abrahams had the trick of keeping their knees up to hip-level in flight, the better to prepare for the landing leg-shoot, which was used by F. C. Irons, U.S.A., Olympic Champion of 1908, at 24 ft. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.

To prolong the flight, the Americans invented, and the coloured athletes assimilated, the running-in-the-air action, without which no man has ever jumped 25 ft. or farther. It has been used by all the great Americans, including the Negroes, Ned Gourdin, Sol Butler, H. De Hart Hubbard and E. L. Gordon, all of whom have cleared 25 ft., and by Sylvio Cator, the Haitian Negro, who was the first man to exceed 26 ft.

The running-in-the-air action is important because the front leg, instead of being brought up to its highest elevation, comes up only half way, with the result that the forward foot is then carried down and back in the manner of a short stride from the crutch. Simultaneously, the take-off leg passes ahead and completes the same sort of arc, as shown by Dennis Watts (Fig. 4). There are two separate and distinct steps in the air.

The legs are then brought together for the shoot-landing as practised by Jesse Owens (Fig. 5). This terminates in the break forward. As the heels cut the sand the jumper gives at the knees, and by swinging his arms forward and up carries his weight on over the fulcrum of his grounded heels and pitches on his hands (Fig. 6).

Meanwhile, Gourdin's record had been beaten in somewhat extraordinary circumstances. Robert Legende was an American who had failed to secure a place in the U.S.A. Olympic Team, for the Long Jump of 1924. He came, however, to Paris, in the team for the Pentathlon, in which he was placed third.

That five-piece contest includes a long jump, and I was standing with the American head coach, Jack Moakley, when Legende made his jump. He used the running-in-the-air action all right and he seemed to whip his torso up and forward from above the hips, and I cried to Moakley, "There goes the world's record." I was right, for the distance he had cleared was 25 ft. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins.

Shortly afterwards there came a day when I went down to Stamford Bridge Track, London, to renew acquaintance with Shuhei Nishida and Chuehi Nambu, both of Waseda University, Japan. My intention was to pick up tips about pole vaulting in particular and jumping in general.

The Japanese were anxious to know if I thought Sylvio Cator could possibly have jumped farther than 26 ft. I thought so and

in return asked them to let me in on the secret of their jumping and pole vaulting. "It is all a question of agility and balance," they told me. "You watch us!"

Then they walked a considerable distance on their hands, their legs whirling like windmills but under perfect control, so that the balance of their bodies was not disturbed.

"You see?" they said. "If your British jumpers and pole vaulters would practise that, they would learn to control their bodies properly and would be the best in the world. Thus is the running-in-the-air action and the high jumper's turn learned. If you are a high hurdler you force your weight forward so that you get your foot to ground quickly on the other side of the fence; the long jumper must not do that if he will go far, so he uses the running-in-the-air action, keeps his trunk up and his weight back so that his limbs may move smoothly on his centre of gravity and keep his heels away from the sand."

Nambu made a world's long-jump record of 26 ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. on October 27, 1931, and at the Los Angeles Games in 1932 a record for the hop, step and jump, of 51 ft. 7 ins.

The Germans have a different theory. Luz Long (Fig. 7) and his *confrères* all use what is called the hang action. The legs, flexed at the knees, hang straight down from the hips beneath an upright torso. At the top of the flight the legs are swung violently forward and the knees raised up to hip-level, but I do not think this is as good as the running-in-the-air action, whereby a record of even 27 ft. may be made at Wembley in 1948.

Meantime, Jesse Owens, the "Tan Streak" from the Ohio State University, U.S.A., had arrived. He was a world's record holder for the sprints and low hurdles to which, on the same afternoon, he added the world's record for the long jump of 26 ft. 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ ins.

All these record holders have been tremendously fast sprinters and

distinguished also at the high jump or the hurdles.

To sum up. We have now two first-rate hopes for Olympic success. During the war years Dennis Watts cleared over 24 ft. in Rhodesia. In England, in 1946, he won the long jump and hop, step and jump championships of the A.A.A. and R.A.F. with performances of 23 ft. 4 ins. and 46 ft. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. respectively. He has speed, spring and a nicely balanced running-in-the-air action. He did too much in the early 1947 season, but is capable of beating the English native record of 24 ft. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins., and may, I think, win the Olympic championship.

A far less certain quantity is Captain Whittle, R.E.M.E., the 1947 dual A.A.A. champion. He won the long jump at 23 ft. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ins. and the 440-yards hurdles in 55 secs. Given the perfect athletic technique of Dennis Watts, Whittle might win both the long jump and the 400-metres hurdles at Wembley next year.

I should like to call attention to the fact that most of the great long jumpers have been tall, spare men, over 6 ft. in height, and that practically all of them, including Newburn, who was very heavy, have been great all-rounders. Abrahams, Bellerby and Ashington all achieved successes in other events than the long jump at Cambridge. Bellerby also got a hockey blue. Sandy Duncan, former Public Schools record holder, was an Oxford Blue for sprint and long jump, and also President of the O.U.A.C. and Captain of the O.U.A.F.C.

The real qualities of a long jumper were perhaps best shown by the Irishman, O'Connor. These physical qualities are great length of limb or great muscular development, combined with speed and great elasticity of the muscles of the legs. Perfect balance and strength and control over the abdominal muscles are also very important factors.



7.—THE HANG ACTION BY LUZ LONG. The legs, flexed at the knees, hang straight beneath an upright torso. At the top of the flight the legs are swung violently forward and the knees are raised to hip-level

CORRESPONDENCE

WOODCOCK IN A DEVON STREET

SIR.—When I was walking down a street at Seaton, Devon, early one morning at the end of last month, a bird struck the wall adjoining the pavement a few yards in front of me. It was not sufficiently light for me to see at once what it was and I took it for a nightjar, but on reaching it I found it to be a woodcock.

It had evidently flown into the telegraph wires on the opposite side of the street and crashed. The upper mandible was badly broken and the bird could not have recovered.

It is surely very unusual for a woodcock to be flying so low over the streets of a town.—V. AUSTIN RANSOME (Rev.), *Pendomer, Seaton, Devon.*

[Birds on migration often fly low over towns, especially in mist or fog, and this bird was probably a migrant on passage along the south coast. On the other hand, birds which are not migrants and which one would never expect to see over towns have been observed there. A year or two ago, for example, a covey of partridges flew low over the main street of Banbury, Oxfordshire, and one hit a telegraph wire and crashed landed in the garden of a near-by house.—ED.]

CATTLE ON THE SANDS

SIR.—With reference to the letter in your issue of November 7 about cattle on the sands of Cardigan Bay, during the hot weather I noticed that cattle and sheep sat about on the sands at the mouth of the River Torridge here whenever the tide was out. I am sure they desired coolness from the moisture left in the sand, as from the day the drought broke I have never seen them there.—M. NELSON, *Northam, North Devon.*

OFF NORTH CAROLINA

SIR.—On the barrier reef off the coast of North Carolina cattle frequently come down to the beach to feed on mole-crabs which burrow under the wet sand at the edge of the surf. They also feed on wild sea oats which grow on the sand-dunes. On this unusual diet they appear to thrive.—RAYMOND JOLIFFE, *Ammerdown, Radstock, Somerset.*

SEA-LOVING HORSES

SIR.—At an isolated stretch of beach near my home in North Queensland I frequently saw horses "seaside." Almost every evening at dusk, a mob of ten or fifteen brumbies (wild horses) used to walk or trot from the surround-

ing bush in rough India file and come down on to the beach. Some walked up and down the sands, others were more frisky and had a short gallop. Nearly all invariably waded out into two or three feet of water, and apparently enjoyed being in the surf. They generally stayed about half an hour on the beach, and then wandered back into the bush.—K. McCALL, *Wadham College, Oxford.*

RHYME ABOUT A FOX

SIR.—Do you, or any of your readers, know the author of the old rhyme, *Mr. Fox?* I have an old copy with heliotype illustrations by T.W.B. but there is no other clue, not even to the music to which it was set and which appears on the cardboard back. I have always remembered the following three verses of the eight:—

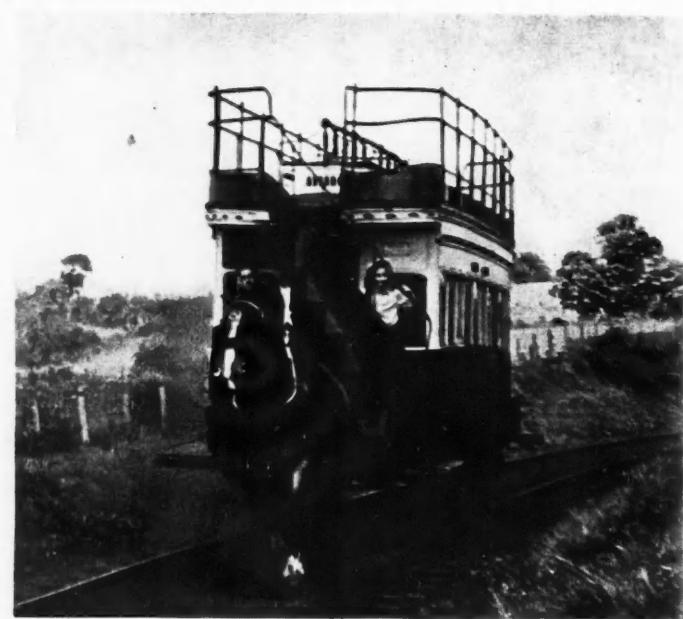
- i. *A Fox went out in a hungry plight and begged of the moon to give him light,*
- For he'd many a mile to run that night before he could reach his den O!
- v. *Then old Mrs. Slipper Slopper jump'd out of bed and out of the window she popp'd her head,*
- John! John! John! the grey goose has gone, and the Fox is off to his den O!*
- viii. *He then sat down with his hungry wife, they did very well without fork or knife,*
- They never ate a better goose in all their life, and the little ones pick'd the bones O!*

It is curious that the last verse as given in the body of the book refers to a duck being eaten, whereas on the back of the book, where the music is printed, the same verse mentions a goose.

The names of the printer and the publisher are also omitted and it would be interesting to know these.—W. A. EVERSHED, *Prothilther Grange, Hoarwithy-on-Wye, Hereford.*

DONKEYS IN INDIA

SIR.—You recently published a photograph of a donkey with her foal in an English village, and I thought you might be interested to see the enclosed picture of an Indian donkey suckling her foal in the village of Vizagapatam, on the east coast of India. Donkeys are much used in India as beasts of burden, but it is somewhat unusual to find them in such a humid climate as that of this coast, in parts of which no draught animals but bullocks and buffaloes can thrive.—DOUGLAS DICKINS, *Hampstead, N.W.3.*



A HORSE-TRAM IN NORTHERN IRELAND

See letter: "It's Quicker by Rail"

"IT'S QUICKER BY RAIL"

SIR.—With reference to the letter in COUNTRY LIFE of October 31 about progress on the railways, you may care to see the enclosed photograph of a horse-tram still running in Northern Ireland.

This tram covers the short distance (about 1 mile) between the Co. Tyrone township of Fintona and Fintona Junction, on the Omagh to Enniskillen Railway, and connects with all stopping trains on that railway. Between trains the horse assists in any shunting that has to be done at Fintona.

There are 1st, 2nd and, upstairs, 3rd class seats, and the driver acts also as porter and ticket collector at each end of the run.—S. McCLELLAND, 12, *Celtic Park, Enniskillen, N. Ireland.*

A PEREGRINE'S KILL?

SIR.—During the second week of October I was walking along the banks of the River Usk in Central Wales, when I came upon a number of dead birds. There were some fifteen visible in a newly sown field of winter wheat and under the trees on the river bank.

I picked up five pigeons, which appeared in perfect condition, except for broken necks and one or two feathers ruffled on the back of the necks. The other birds were mostly jackdaws and had obviously all been killed within the last hour or so.

Examination of the pigeons showed no damage by shot and I was fairly sure poisoning was not the cause of death. Their crops were well stocked with fresh corn.

Their position in the field indicated a hurried attempted escape to the surrounding trees, and my view is that a peregrine was to blame for this wholesale murder, as I know of no other hawk able to accomplish such a feat. I should be most interested to hear any opinions you may have on the subject.—S. WYLIE, *Coombe Hollow, Compton Dundon, Somerset.*

[If a peregrine has been seen in the locality, we think the circumstantial evidence strongly supports our correspondent's suggestion.—ED.]

MERCHANT ADVENTURERS' SEALS

From Lady Ruggles-Brise.

SIR.—The beautiful and unusual Holdsworth Punch Bowl illustrated in your issue of October 31 is of special interest to me, as I am compiling a brochure of old sealed bottles, and in the course of my research have come

across bottles sealed with the names of five Holdsworths. The oldest dated one is that sealed "Thos. Holdsworth, Dartmo. 1755," though one sealed "E. Holdsworth" must have been of c. 1720. Another is sealed "T. H. Hunt. 1808" (Thomas Holdsworth Hunt); and there are four Newmans. The oldest of these is that sealed "R. Newman. 1723."

Robert Newman was born in 1676 and was Mayor of Dartmouth several times. He died in 1739. The bottle bearing his seal was dredged from the mud in Dartmouth Harbour by men searching for the coal dropped in the Dart by colliers. I think it quite possible that both Robert Newman and E. Holdsworth were portrayed among the other merchant adventurers on the Holdsworth Punch Bowl made by Paul Lamerie in 1723.

It is interesting to think that a firm which was trading as merchant adventurers in the days of Queen Elizabeth, and still has interests in both Newfoundland and Portugal, should be represented by no fewer than ten bottles of varying dates and with different seals.—SHEELAH RUGGLES-BRISE, *Ramsbury, Wiltshire.*

THATCH AND FIRE RISKS

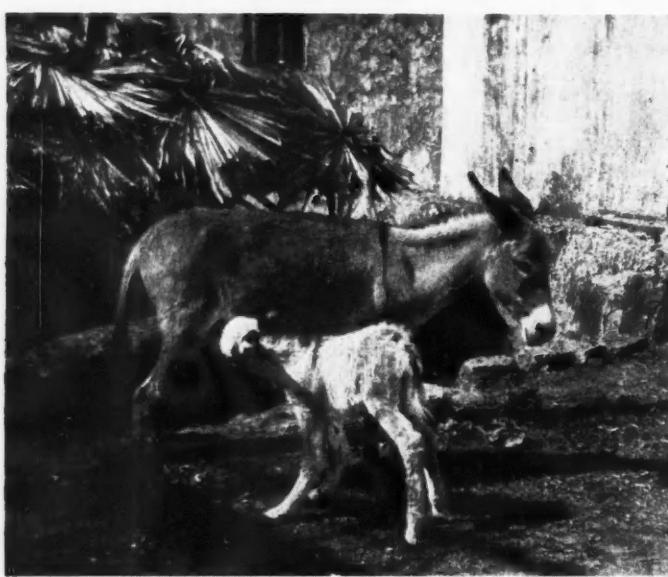
SIR.—Apropos of Mr. J. D. U. Ward's article about thatch and fire risks, in your issue of October 10, and of your subsequent correspondence, I can find no evidence to suggest that reed thatch is more inflammable than straw thatch. Nor do I agree with Sir Archibald Hurd (October 24) that older buildings have lower chimneys than those built from the designs of modern architects.

The height of a chimney depends on a number of factors. What is more important than height is the gathering in of the throat of the chimney immediately above the fire basket.

I think you may be interested in some remarks of Mr. J. Rinnell, thatcher of Binton, near Stratford-on-Avon, about thatch and the danger of fire. He writes as follows:—

"Nearly 20 years ago some thatched property was destroyed at Sibford Gower, Oxfordshire, through sparks from a traction engine igniting the thatch from outside. Sparks from chimneys very seldom fire a roof. A fire at Shottery, Warwickshire, about six or seven years ago was caused by heating apparatus inside. The thatch was left exposed, which it never should be in a house.

"The danger of fire from holes



A DONKEY SUCKLING HER FOAL IN INDIA

See letter: *Donkeys in India*

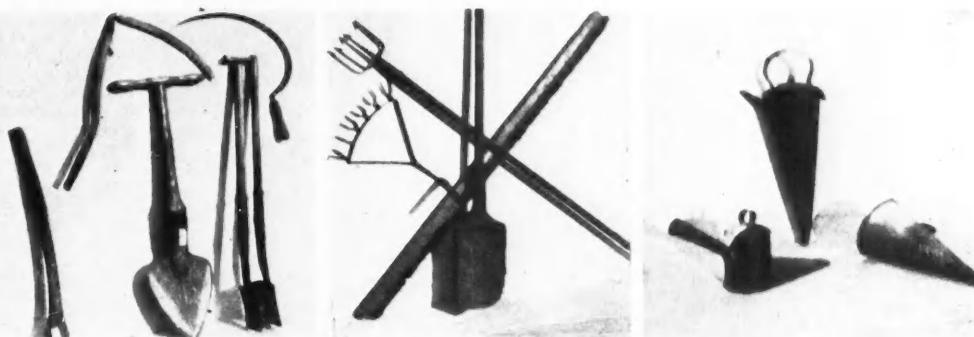
burnt in the chimney against the thatch seems to me small. In removing old thatch I have found several chimneys badly burnt against the thatch or two, and it has been obvious that the burning is of long standing."—CHARLES BARKER, 21, Carter's Lane, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

OCTOPUS FISHING ON THE RIVIERA

SIR.—With reference to your recent correspondence about octopus fishing, I used to go out from St. Raphael with an old fisherman who had been a member of King Edward VII's yacht crew at Cannes. His bottle of oil was tied to the bows of the boat, and he scattered the oil with a stick *pour empêcher le vent*. His weapon was a long pole of 12 ft. or so, with a steel end covered with barbs, decorated with, literally, red tape.

He said the octopus always arranged three or four small white stones in front of its lair and he used to peer into the water for these, and when he saw them he twiddled the end of his pole in front of them. The red rag either attracted or irritated the octopus, which immediately rushed out and seized the barbed end and was hooked. I never saw a large stone with small white ones in front of it which did not hide an octopus.

He also told me that people bathing at Nice wearing red ties to their sandals were always being attacked by the small octopus which are numerous in the shallow water there.—M. V. STANTON, *Pengethley Hotel, St. Owen's Cross, Herefordshire.*



OLD IMPLEMENTS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE AT THE TICKENHILL FOLK MUSEUM IN WORCESTERSHIRE

See letter: *Tools of Bygone Days*

Westminster Bridge) and Westminster. Though it has been stated, with some truth, that the Metropolis is not so hospitable to butterflies as to birds, the former can usually be found if searched for, and sometimes one cannot help but notice them. One favoured resort of theirs is the Embankment Gardens in Westminster (a stone's throw from Charing Cross Station), where I have observed, among others, the Painted Lady, the Red Admiral, the Comma, the Peacock, the Small Tortoiseshell, the Meadow Brown and Whites.—PETER MICHAEL, 56, Cranmore Lane, Aldershot, Hampshire.

GAMBLING IN CHURCH

SIR.—I thought you might care to add to the photographs of misericords published in COUNTRY LIFE the enclosed one of a 14th-century misericord in Ely cathedral. It depicts two men seated at a gaming table, on which are two dice. The figure on the right has apparently won, for he appears to be scooping up his winnings. Or it may be that they have been caught in the act and that one of them is hastily seizing the kitty, for their eyes are innocently turned away from the table!—J. D. ROBINSON 19, Langholme Crescent, Darlington, Durham.

ARE LEAVES BIGGER THIS YEAR?

SIR.—I have been struck by the unusual size of the leaves lying in gardens and streets this autumn.

One plane leaf—by no means an exceptional one—found lying in Old Brompton Road the other morning with dozens of its 1947 fellows, measures 11½ inches from the top of the stalk to the farthest point away at the apex, and 16 inches across at its broadest point. Is this another result of our wonderful summer?—GERALD B. HARRIS, 5, Gledhow Gardens, South Kensington, S.W.5.

[Certain types of plane tree have exceptionally large leaves, and the leaves seen by our correspondent were probably from one of these.—ED.]

NOT-SO-TIMID MOORHENS

SIR.—In your issue of October 17, Major C. S. Jarvis, after recounting the story of three moorhens which chased away a stoat, remarks: "I think this is the first time I have ever heard of a moorhen asserting itself in any way."

The moorhen, for all its retiring habits, can be bold enough on occasions, especially when it has young to protect. Two instances of a moorhen driving away a stoat are recorded in *British Birds*, Vol. xxxviii (1944-45), pp. 80 and 120.

In Dovedale, Derbyshire, in 1944, I saw a weasel, prowling along the bank

of the river, come suddenly upon a resting moorhen. The bird advanced threateningly a step or two, with its tail raised and fanned, whereat the weasel retreated hurriedly and made a detour.

This year I saw a moorhen, on the water, use a similar threat-display towards a mute swan which was about to attack one of its (very young) chicks. The swan's attention was distracted, and the chick escaped.—ALAN A. WRIGHT, 10, Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

WILD GOATS OF BRITAIN

SIR.—With reference to the recent article and correspondence in COUNTRY LIFE about herds of wild goats, when I was a boy living at Coniston, Lancashire, there were several herds on the fells between Coniston and Tilberthwaite, which could be clearly seen from the main road to Ambleside.

I well remember that when out for a ramble one day and coming out at the top of Tilberthwaite Gill we came across a small herd of wild goats to which we gave chase with an old mongrel and terrier. One was brought to bay and despatched by my cousin, the late Frank Jarrett, afterwards the well-known veterinary surgeon, who took the head, which had good horns, and had it stuffed.—J. TOWIESON SLY, Fortescue Road, Sidmouth, Devon.

TOOLS OF BYGONE DAYS

SIR.—Apropos of the illustrations in last week's issue of COUNTRY LIFE of old farm implements preserved at Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire, you may care to see the enclosed photographs of some of the obsolete and rare tools and implements of the countryside that form part of the folk museum at Tickenhill Manor, Bewdley, Worcestershire.

The first photograph, on the left, shows a grubbing axe, used for extracting tree roots from the ground; in the middle is a hay spade, used for cutting hay out of a rick; and, above it, a rather nice hand sickle. On the right is a potato setter, which is dug into the earth closed, holding the potato, then opened as shown, allowing the potato to drop into place. Above is a fine-toothed sickle.

The second photograph portrays an eel spear, as used in the Severn, crossed by a windmill flour-screen brush, a decidedly rare survival to-day. The fan-like object of wrought-iron is a plasterer's larry, used for mixing the hair with plaster. This had a long handle, fixed at right-angles, the broken fragment of which can be seen as a shadow. It is of considerable age and one two-pronged

tooth has been replaced by a single spike. The object in the middle is an ancient maltster's shovel, cut from one piece of wood.

The third photograph shows a beer muller, on the right, with variations of it, namely, a quick-boiling kettle, circa 1840, in the middle, and left, a boot muller, all of which were pushed into the glowing embers for speedy results.—ALLAN JOBSON, 21, Crown Dale, S.E.19.

A DEARTH OF HORNETS

SIR.—Apropos of the Duke of Bedford's letter in COUNTRY LIFE of October 31, asking whether hornets are more numerous, last season I killed a round dozen in and about this house. This year I have not seen a single specimen.—FRANCIS R. VERDON, Littlefields, Sidbury, Devon.

THE REVIVAL OF THE KISSING BOUGH

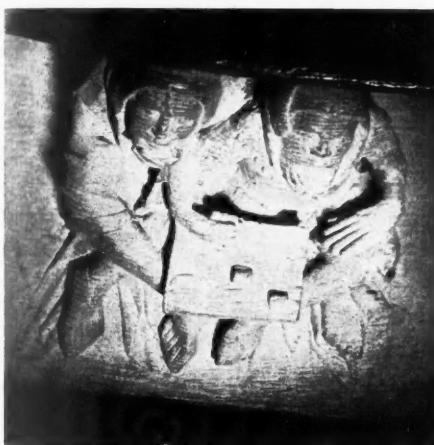
SIR.—In your Christmas Number last year (December 6, 1946) you published an article by me entitled *The Kissing Bough of England*, and I think your readers may be interested to hear that there has been a small revival of this charming Christmas custom, once popular in England. It is too soon to know if that revival will be sustained, but those who have once seen this floating emblem of candles, bright red apples and evergreens, filling a darkened room with its mild glory, may want to see it again, and they can do that with less effort in subsequent years, since the light wire frame can be used any number of times. What is more, a pinched and impoverished age rather challenges us to invent, because we cannot buy, and to keep Christmas with a marked panache.

Tradition gives us two forms of the device—the globe and the crown—and I propose to describe their construction more fully than space per-



A KISSING BOUGH, WITH ITS CANDLES LIGHTED, HUNG LAST CHRISTMAS

See letter: *The Revival of the Kissing Bough*



A MISERICORD IN ELY CATHEDRAL

See letter: *Gambling in Church*

BIRDS CATCHING BUTTERFLIES

From Sir Samuel Scott, Bt.
SIR.—A bird, I believe, seldom attacks a butterfly. The other day a Tortoiseshell butterfly flew past the window. A second later a pied wagtail flew by with the butterfly fluttering in its beak. The bird proceeded to break the butterfly in pieces on the stone flags.—S. H. SCOTT, *Yews, Wimborne, Wimborne, Dorset.*

[Most insectivorous birds, including pied wagtails, have been recorded catching and eating butterflies, but robins apparently find them distasteful, for, having caught them, they quickly discard them.—ED.]

LONDON LEPIDOPTERA

SIR.—Though the occurrence of the Humming-bird Hawk-moth in London, recorded in your issue of October 24, is interesting, there seems no reason why, in a favourable year for this species, it should be regarded as outstanding, since other migrant insects are to be found there. Painted Ladies and Red Admirals, for example, occur in various London districts, including the central area. This year noted the Red Admiral in Lambeth outside Waterloo Station as well as near

mitted last year. To make the globe, five circles of pliable wire are first formed, all alike, and perhaps two feet in diameter. One becomes the horizontal "equator," and the other four are arranged to make eight "meridians," bound at the "poles" and the "equator" with fine binding-wire. That is all there is to the permanent framework, which is now entirely covered with a neat and small-leaved evergreen, preferably box; for the charm of the Kissing Bough lies in its *formality*.

Eight coloured candles are clipped or wired around the "equator" between the "meridians," and another eight can be wired inside the globe towards the bottom, to compose a lower ring. In the centre, and on a level with the "equator," hang seven red apples forming a tight circle, with one of the seven in the middle. Each hangs on a ribbon from the "N. pole," tied to the stalk, or taken through the core of the apple by means of a bodkin, and knotted at the other end. Sometimes the apples are replaced by oranges, or even by a silver or golden ball, which delightfully reflects the sixteen flames around it. Indeed, there has always been room for improvisation. The globe is then hung from the ceiling on wire or red braid,



SHAMING PALM TREES IN CEYLON TO MAKE THEM PRODUCE FULLER NUTS BY TRAMPLING ON NUTS WITH NO PROPER KERNELS AND (left) TYING THE NUTS, SPLIT UP, ROUND THE TRUNK

See letter: How to Get Fuller Nuts

graph was taken by flashlight, and, needless to say, the Kissing Bough must be imagined as the source of light—a benign radiance given out by its double ring of sixteen candle flames.

—LAURENCE WHISTLER,
Lyme Regis, Dorset.

AN EARLY IRISH CANOE

SIR.—I thought you might be interested in the enclosed photograph of an ancient Irish canoe recovered recently from Upper Lough Erne, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland, by fishermen in their drag nets while fishing in 60 feet of water. The canoe, which measures 20 ft. by 3 ft., was roughly shaped out of an oak bole and is believed to date to the 10th century.

—R. S. LITTLE, *Castle Balfour, Lisnaskea, Northern Ireland.*

HOW TO GET FULLER NUTS

SIR.—Some time ago you published a letter from me recounting how, when coconut-palms in Ceylon bore "puchie" nuts (that is, fruits without a proper kernel), the owner plucked some of them and, after splitting them up, strung them together with coir-rope, and tied them round the trunk a few feet above the base, to arouse the palm to a sense of self-respect and make it yield better nuts.

I notice that the coast Veddahs, too, who are very superstitious, resort to the same practice. While on a visit recently to a Veddah settlement about 20 miles north of my town, I found a Veddah tying a few split nuts round the stem to arouse the delinquent palm to a sense of shame, as illustrated in one of my photographs.

Such treatment is not confined to coconut trees alone. I observed that when the areca palm yielded "puchie" nuts in the village, the householder, after picking and split-



and finally there is tied to the bottom that bunch of mistletoe which in the South earned the Kissing Bough its name, though in the North it can seldom have been added.

The crown is better suited to a low ceiling, because smaller, and is virtually the globe's "northern hemisphere." The "meridians" become semicircles rising above the "equator," and a red apple hangs under each, with the mistletoe in the centre of all.

The Kissing Bough was formerly the main symbol of the joys of Christmas. Beneath or around it the mummers or guisers acted, the dancers danced, the carol-singers sang. It may not be hung, as formerly, with little presents and pendants, now that the Christmas tree has come to us from Germany, but it remains an enchantment and a curiously English one. Alas! you would scarcely think so from the accompanying photograph, which can only serve to show the size and shape of one device made last year, when mistletoe was not to be found, and the rosemary on the framework was thin. For the photo-

ting some of the fruits, scattered them on the open ground in full view of the tree, so that passers-by might trample on them and subject the defaulter to a sense of humiliation, with a view to making it behave better. My other photograph illustrates this curious practice.

—S. V. O. SOMANADER,
Batticaloa, Ceylon.

BIRDS OF THE WELSH BORDER

SIR.—I wonder what the effect of the severe weather last winter has been on bird life? In Herefordshire I have noticed several changes during the summer and autumn. I thought chaffinches were far fewer, and also thrushes and blackbirds. A flock of greenfinches, which are usually house-shy, nested in the orchard and trees round the house and were with us several months, and a pair of goldfinches built their home in a cypress on the lawn. Only one pair of pied wagtails, instead of two, summered with us and brought up a family this year. The spotted flycatchers, however, were as numerous as they have ever been.

In this district, at least, buzzards have not decreased. In every wood one can hear their cries, and they are becoming far less afraid of man.

I was saddened last week, however, on entering a wood near Monmouth, to find a pair of these lovely birds hung up on a keeper's gallows. A farmer friend who was with me commented that they killed the lambs, but he admitted that he had never seen any evidence of this.

In a sunny dingle, an hour later, we came across two cock crossbills. What gorgeous creatures they are!

I was fortunate enough to see and

a heather cock. Could it have been a black grouse?—E. POTTER, *Oakdene, Pontrilas, Herefordshire.*

"Heather cock" is a local name for both the black grouse and the red grouse, and as both breed in the Black Mountains the bird heard by our correspondent may have been either of them.—ED.]

FOXES IN GERMANY

SIR.—While travelling along the Hanover *autobahn* recently with an artillery column I was fortunate in getting an excellent view of a fox standing at the edge of the road, completely oblivious to the noise and speed of our guns and tanks. He seemed to be in a fine condition and possessed a magnificent brush.

Is it because foxes are not hunted in Germany that they are as bold as this?—J. R. MOUNTFORD, *Rhine Army, Germany.*

[Though not hunted with hounds, as in England, foxes in Germany have many foes to contend with, and we doubt if the average Continental fox is bolder than that of Britain.—ED.]

FEEDING-STUFFS AND THE SMALLER FARMER

SIR.—Apropos of my letter in your issue of November 7 complaining that my November rations of feeding-stuffs were based on my September milk production, four cows have since calved and are giving over 18 gallons a day between them. I wrote to the feeding-stuffs officer, and it is only fair to say that he sent me some extra coupons. But this hand-to-mouth existence is not satisfactory.—GERALD F. TORREY, *Loo-Water, Heacham, King's Lynn, Norfolk.*

BADGERS ABROAD IN DAYLIGHT

SIR.—On August 23, at 5 p.m., I was standing in front of my house, when two badgers galloped up my avenue and passed within three yards, going on towards a wood behind the house, where an old sett, unused for many years, exists. On the next evening at the same hour, I saw them again, playing in a field in front of the house. They played around among cattle for



THE REMAINS OF AN ANCIENT IRISH CANOE, RECOVERED FROM UPPER LOUGH ERNE

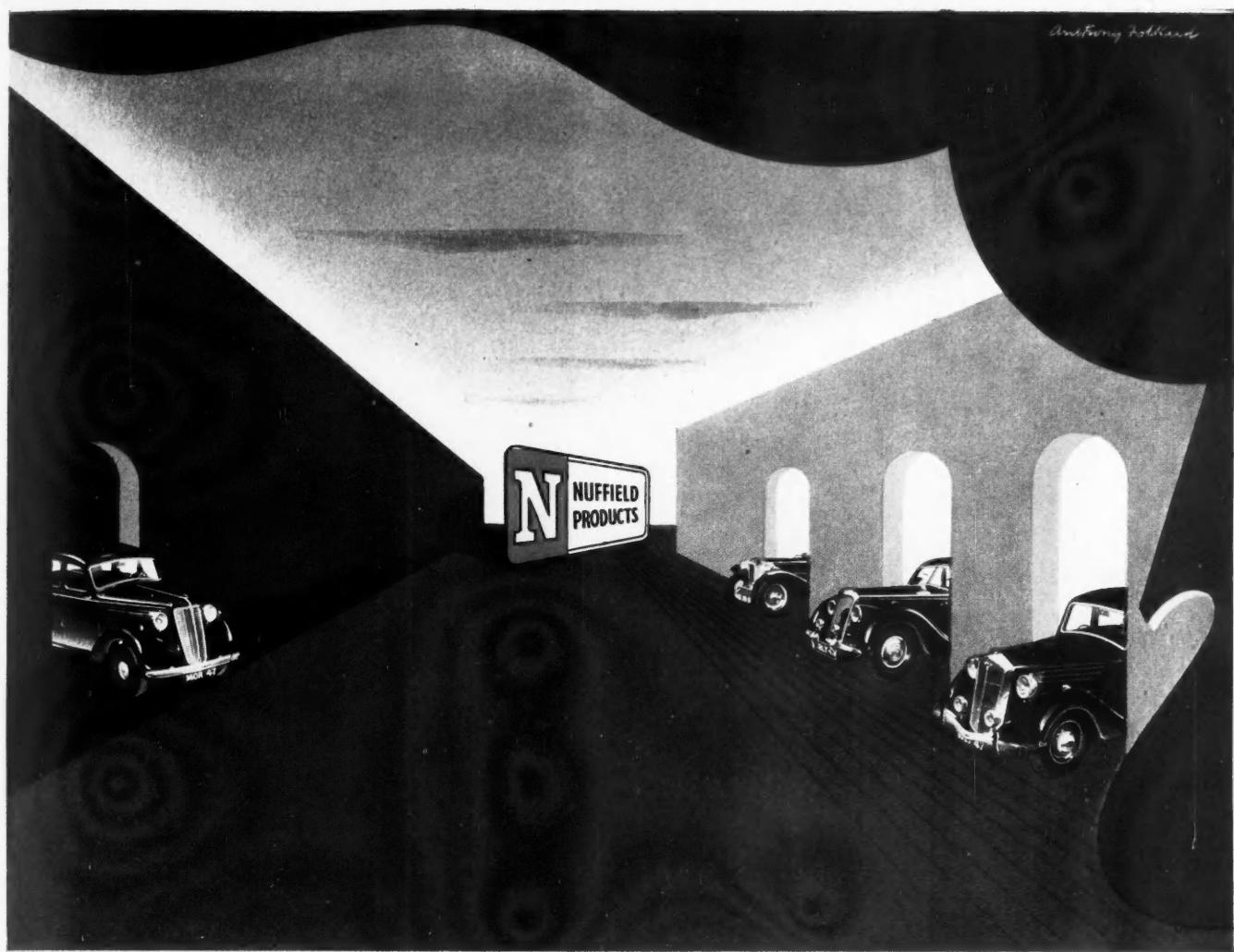
See letter: An Early Irish Canoe

hear, during the early summer, a pair of landrails or corncrakes. The last time I had heard one was forty years ago as a boy in Staffordshire, when they were quite common.

When on a visit to an old workman, in the foothills of the Black Mountains, during late spring, I heard a loud call of a bird which was unfamiliar to me. We estimated it to be at least a mile away, but its cry was particularly clear and strong. My companion could give me no more information than that the bird was

about 15 minutes, and I saw one jump about two feet into the air. The whole affair was most incomprehensible, and I should be grateful for your comments on it. I can only think that the badgers had been driven out of the old sett, which was over-populated.—E. A. GIBBON, *Rathculliheen, Waterford, Ireland.*

[It is unusual for badgers to leave home before dusk, but where they are numerous and unmolested they become much bolder and venture forth earlier in the evening.—ED.]



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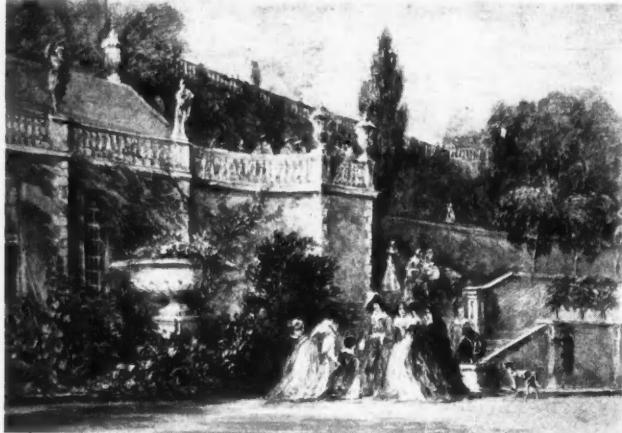
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YOUNG MEN AT WIMBLEDON

WHEN the hurly-burly's done and there is no more big golf that has got to be watched, the reporter can either retire to his winter quarters or enjoy the pleasantest if not the most exciting kind of watching, when there are no crowds to get in his way and he can even, greatly daring, speak to the players. There are two such days of watching that I always greatly enjoy between October and Christmas, the two on which I go to make a preliminary observation of the two University sides. To-morrow I hope to be casting a not too baleful eye on Oxford when they play the Society at Southfield. On the first of the month I went to see Cambridge at Wimbledon.

* * *

I always enjoy going to Wimbledon. Everybody is so kind to me there. I remembered the roast beef at lunch from last year and it was just as exquisite this year. The course itself is so engaging and never prettier than when the trees are clad in their autumnal yellows and browns. Moreover there was this year one particular source of pleasure, that I knew where I was and did not feel dizzy. The order of the holes has been so often changed there that I have of late years been completely "done over and confounded" in trying to relearn the numbers. Now they have resumed their old sequence, much as it was when Mr. Colt first laid out the course and I used often to play there. So once again I felt that my foot was on my native heath, and if somebody told me he was two up it really meant something; I could

FALLING PETALS

QUITE audibly and one by one they fall
Upon the polished woodlike yellow pearls
In the dim room where their last voices call,
Small whispering voices as the rose unfurls
Her ripened heart . . . oh! lovely, fated things,
Hollowed with shadow, pear-shaped, silken-clear,
How like to the pure amber of a tear
That overflows the heart's tumultuous springs!

IRENE H. LEWIS.

calculate how many more he had to play. It was a fine golfing day too, with the course almost absurdly fast and dry for November, the greens keen and yet with plenty of grass on them, and it was warm enough for one who, like myself, must do his watching on inner lines of communication to stay pleasantly immobile by one or two of the short hole greens. Altogether a lovely, lazy, friendly day.

* * *

In watching a University side in one of its away matches one has always to tell oneself not to be too censorious, for they have a lot to endure. For instance, these young gentlemen from Cambridge had risen from their beds about 6 a.m. and started hungry in their motor-bus at 6.45. They had breakfasted at Stevenage, which is some little way from their base, and had rumbled and bumbled along in their bus for about three hours. They had then, after a brief interval, set out to play the foursomes on a course that was to some of them quite strange. Youth is "a season made for joy," but that is really almost too joyful an experience; it is humanly impossible that people should play their best at any rate before lunch.

I have fearful recollections in my own time of starting from Cambridge to get to Yarmouth in a train that started about 7 o'clock, but then, when we did get there, we were not sent out straightway to play the match. We played a few holes and partially recovered from the journey; the match consisted only of post-prandial singles. This more humane, or perhaps more enervating, system prevailed for years after I had gone down, but now, with matches being invariably of two rounds, there is no chance for the voyagers to, so to speak, get rid of their sea legs. I am all in favour of foursomes as well as singles, but I am glad I never had to do it and I never cease to wonder at the visiting sides playing as well as they often do.

When Cambridge, after losing the first three foursomes, contrived to be only one down at lunch, I was full of patriotic hopes, but they were not realised. Age, that had been snug in bed for hours after youth had set out on its travels, apparently profited just as much from lunch; at any rate Wimbledon not only kept its lead but added one to it. There was a little excitement towards the end, but it was largely spurious; that one point gained in the foursomes was, as it so often is, of priceless value, both arithmetical and psychological.

* * *

Having said so much by way of mitigating my own criticisms I must add that had I been an Oxford spy I should have gone home not dissatisfied. These are early days, but I really did not think that Cambridge played very well. I knew the old blues and will leave them out, save to say that Weir did well to beat for a second year in succession that formidable veteran, Stanley Hill. I was more interested to see how the new boys on the side—very likely married majors with large families—swung the club, because that in these earlier matches is the point; it does not so much matter what happens, but a good swing is a good swing and a bad one is a bad one. One good golfer I am sure I saw, Gracey, who last year at Rye was one of the spare men who played in the dinner match. I remember to have thought then that he looked like a golfer, and these views were confirmed. He did not in fact play well in his foursome, but he did win his single, and he has a graceful, easy, and above all, simple way of swinging the club, which looks as if nothing ought ever to go seriously wrong with it.

I saw one other who swung the club naturally and easily as if it was not an exhaust-

GOOD SHOOTING

THE clock had been turned back a hundred years. Here in the valley between rust-coloured hills nearly half a mile high, there was so much game that it was difficult to believe Edinburgh was only 50 miles away. St. John himself, who wrote his classic *Wild Sports and Natural History of the Highlands* in 1846, would have been well satisfied.

Something strange had happened. Men had been busy farming and fighting, and this valley had not seen a sportsman out with a gun or a fishing-rod for several seasons. The lochs were laden with wild duck, the dark fields with feeding geese, the lowland woods with roe deer; pheasants croaked like tyrants from the spinneys, and partridges cheeped in the stubbles. From the thickets jays shrieked.

I was crouching under a mountain ash by a little hill loch in that intense darkness which precedes the dawn. No one had been here in four years past. Within an hour, five hundred duck, led by the pochards that came ghost-like in the grey light, followed by the mallard silhouetted against a red dawn, poured from the sky. Less than a score might have been expected in a normal year.

* * *

It was the beginning of a remarkable day. I came back to my host's house so loaded with game that he was persuaded to take out his own gun for the first time for many years. He returned with me after breakfast to pick the duck I had failed to find. A plantation of young firs, unvisited for several seasons, disclosed a pair of roe deer which had been wreaking havoc on the young trees. Then, as though the cloak of darkness still protected them, a flight of teal whistled above our heads. A cock pheasant and a marauding jay paid the price on our way back to the car.

Yet these were trifles compared with what followed. Down in the valley, where the river grumbled in a mid-winter sleep, the geese were chattering in the fields, snipe in the wet places were filling the grey afternoon with their sad voices. In a little bog next to the high road, where, because of petrol restrictions, no noisy traveller had disturbed them, a cloud of their

~ A Golf Commentary by
BERNARD DARWIN

ingly difficult thing to do; but I saw others who seemed to me to make heavy weather of it, getting the club to the top by a devious and complex route. When after its peregrinations it reached the right place at the top, it came down successfully enough, but now and then I think it must have got to the wrong place. I sometimes wonder if people nowadays do not get their heads bemuddled with opening and shutting the face, and so on. How much better we should all swing if we had been brought up as caddies!

* * *

I have made no mention of the Wimbledonians, Robin Rutherford and his followers, because though it was great fun to see them, I did not go there to spy upon them. I feel inclined to end with something that came into my head at Wimbledon, though it has nothing to do with this particular match but with golf in general. When I think that a wooden club now costs some 52s. 6d. (I believe some cost more) and that a caddie is paid 15s. or £1 a day, and when I further reflect that as undergraduate I paid about 5s. 6d. for a driver and perhaps eighteenpence for a caddie, I do wonder how on earth the average young man can play golf nowadays. He must surely have a parent both opulent and indulgent. I am glad I am not that parent and I feel as if I ought to be getting as rich as a Jew through a sad inability to play golf. It really is a great pity that golf is so expensive and it is hard to see how in the circumstances we can hope to produce a race of good young players. Caddies, to be sure, are not absolutely indispensable, but to do without them is by no means a complete solution. I have no suggestion as to what to do about it; I can only deplore it.

~ By TERENCE HORSLEY

flickering shadows rose. The gun was loaded for geese with No. 4 shot in three-inch cartridges, and it would be great luck to add to the bag.

For the next hour I crawled over the short grass of the river flats, face and belly to the ground, towards the chattering gaggle feeding behind the dykes. When I was within a hundred yards of them, but still out of range, the birds rose with a sound like a mighty wind and were gone. Half a mile away, a farm labourer had walked to a field of roots and they had spotted him.

* * *

"When you've tried the geese," my host had said, "put a spoon into the deep hole which you will find in the river behind you." So now I got out the fishing-rod strapped to my back and cast in. A kelt, of perhaps 30 lb., was the immediate answer. I slid her gently back into the river and cast again. Within a minute or two I was into a pike, and then, one after the other, two more pike.

As the third one was being unhooked, a covey of partridges cheeped in the failing light on a near-by stubble. As I walked towards them, a little cloud like smoke rose into the twilight. It was so dark that the flame from the gun shone in my eyes. Now a hare moved at my feet.

It had been a memorable day, and the bag was growing too heavy to carry. But as I trudged home, the night sky was filled with wings for the last time, and down on the short grass in the darkened field the wild geese began to return from the estuary. I stood on the dyke straining my eyes but seeing nothing. The beat of the wings almost fanned my face.

Over in the west was a bar of pale light, so faint that even a goose would scarcely show against it. Yet I focused my eyes upon it, and trained the gun to my shoulder. I waited, and a shadow filled up the light. I fired, and, listening, waited for the sound which would tell me if the shot had struck home. It was a long wait—but then it came . . . not one but two thuds in quick succession. I had killed two 8 lb. greylags with a single cartridge, the last shot of a great day.

INTERPRETER OF THE ENGLISH SCENE

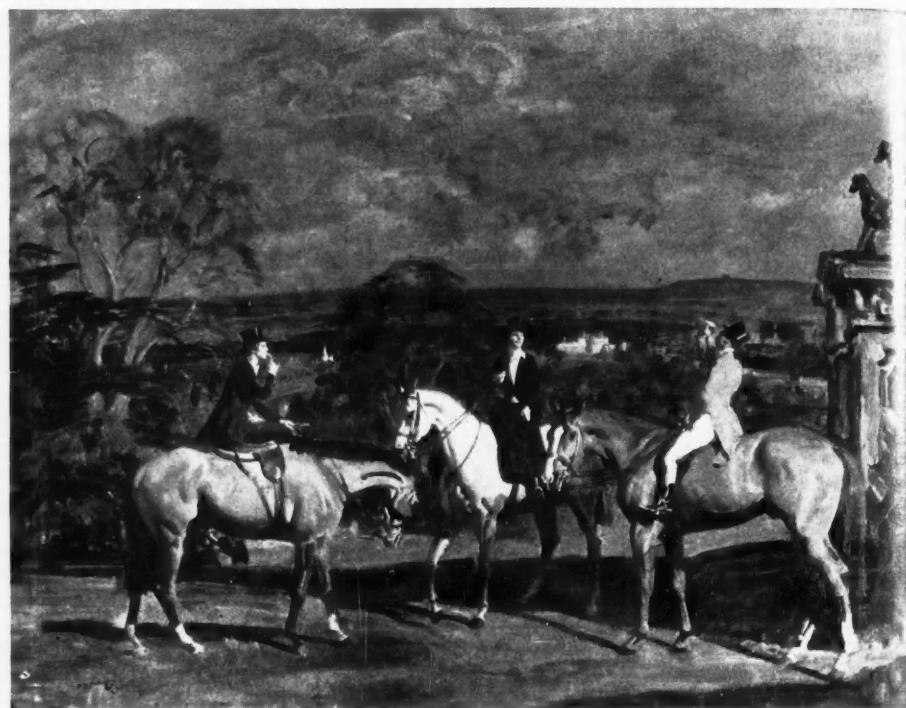
By DENYS SUTTON

THE title of Sir Alfred Munnings's exhibition at the Leicester Galleries is irresistible; "The English Scene" demands a positive response. To look at his paintings is to recall the pleasure we receive from a patch of landscape that is typically English or from a turn of phrase that reveals our national temperament. The pleasure that can be derived from such examples of national character has nothing to do with Chauvinistic trumpeting; it springs from a realisation and enjoyment of those qualities that stamp us as we are. They can be found in certain of our writers and painters at various stages of our history: they endow certain artists with a domestic significance.

On this occasion, the President of the Royal Academy confirms his position as a traditional painter of horses and equine events. His theme is nearly always the horse in relation to its natural background: the human figure, a cavalier or a jockey, takes second place. Here, the horse, not man, is the measure of all things. In this love of the horse, Sir Alfred is very English and very sympathetic.

I have sometimes wondered why the horse should exert such appeal in England. A love of horses is of course shared by other nations, by the Irish and the Arabs. But the high place that the horse enjoys in the hierarchy of our national passions is not dictated by utility alone. We no longer ride to work. Perhaps one can partly explain the horse's attraction in another way. The horse surely represents, from one point of view, our incurable optimism, our belief in chance, at its most attractive. One of our most endearing characteristics is just this determined belief that good luck will extricate us from an awkward situation. The horse symbolises this faith to a large degree: for many of us, he is not only a noble animal or a means of locomotion: he is, we hope, a way into Eldorado.

A large part of the appeal of Sir Alfred's painting resides, then, in his subject-matter. In this respect he enjoys an immediate advantage over many of his brother Academicians, whose fidelity to subject-matter and literal depiction of fact results so often in narrative painting of the dullest type. But who could be so bold as to rest indifferent to the heroes of Newmarket and Cheltenham? His pictures provide for many, perhaps, a poignant reminder of anxious moments. They



1.—HIS OLD DEMESNE



2.—A STUDY OF HORSES



3.—VIEW FROM SELWORTHY:
SEPTEMBER DAY

enable us to be Wordsworthian, to recollect an emotion, though rarely, I fear, with tranquillity. His paintings of the races recall that elation when our hopes were carried aloft, only to be dashed when our "certain" winner failed to achieve a place—unless, of course, we backed the winner. It is one of Sir Alfred's main accomplishments that he really does convey the feel of a race, of the movement of the horses as they begin to struggle for place, of the flash of colour provided by an impressionistic view of the jockeys.

Sir Alfred is at his best when he responds immediately to Nature "on the wing," as in his *Study of Horses* (Fig. 2) or in such sketches as *The Horses Breaking into a Canter at Newmarket* (No. 19). His technical ability allows him to express what he urgently desires to do: a delight in the play of light on a horse's back or the movement of scudding hoofs across the ground.

on a fresh morning. Here his understanding of horses and his eye for colour are deployed to their best advantage.

The illustration of racing and hunting scenes has had a long and worthy tradition in this country. Such painters accomplish what is expected of them: they reproduce a scene with exactitude and taste. The interest of the works lies not so much in plastic beauty—an arrangement of colour and form—as in the honourable recording of scenes that typify our national life. However we may value them as works of art, their appeal as sporting pictures is not to be denied: they have a decided right to existence. If their works transcend illustration and become works of art, as do those of Stubbs, so much the better. But they must be valued for what they are, not for what they ought to be. Pictures of horses express an essential part of our temperament: and in such a composition as *His Old Demesne* (Fig. 1) Sir Alfred has admirably conveyed in a traditional form a nostalgic love for the English countryside and for a way of life that is very English.



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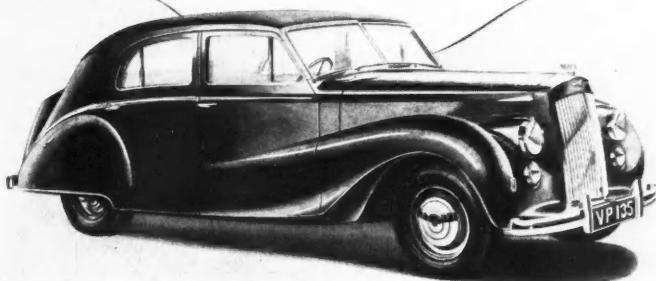


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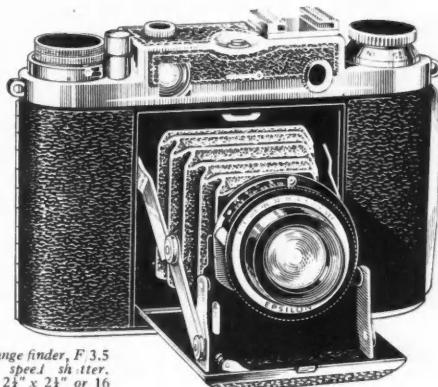
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NEW BOOKS**RIMBAUD: THE LUCIFER OF FRENCH POETRY***Reviews by HOWARD SPRING*

DOCTOR Enid Starkie, who is Reader in French at Oxford University, gave us her life of Arthur Rimbaud about ten years ago. It has now been completely re-written in the light of later knowledge, and is published anew by Hamish Hamilton: *Arthur Rimbaud* (15s.).

Rimbaud is one of the queerest cases in the history of poetry, if not indeed in the history of humanity. He was not yet twenty when he ceased writing poetry for good; but he had, in the few years during which he wrote, reached a position which leads Miss Starkie to call him "one of

was a peasant. When Arthur was six, the father deserted the mother and was not seen again. Upon Madame Rimbaud, a harsh, unimaginative and puritanical woman, rested the task of bringing up the children. Arthur became the wonder-child of his school. He lapped up knowledge and walked off with all the prizes. The outbreak of the Franco-Prussian war, with invading troops around him and his friends' houses burning in the night, must have been a profound psychological disturbance for him. He began a series of flights from home. One of them landed him in Paris in

ARTHUR RIMBAUD. *By Enid Starkie*

(Hamish Hamilton, 15s.)

ALIAS J. J. CONNINGTON. *By A. W. Stewart*

(Hollis and Carter, 15s.)

THE ENGLISH FESTIVALS. *By Laurence Whistler*

(Heinemann, 12s. 6d.)

the greatest poets" (and she does not qualify this by saying one of the greatest French poets), "—if not the greatest—of the last years of the 19th century."

Rimbaud was a drunkard and a drug addict, often filthy in person. Much of his verse was of an obscenity that horrified his friends. His association with Verlaine (who was arrested for shooting him) was notorious; and Miss Starkie believes it was perverse. Yet a poet of Claudel's stature could write: "It is to Rimbaud that I owe, humanly speaking, my return to the faith." It was Rimbaud's writing, he said, that "battered down the walls of the prison where I lay stifled, and brought me the tremendous revelation of the supernatural everywhere around us."

AMBITION'S FAILURE AT TWENTY

By the time he was twenty Rimbaud had convinced himself of utter failure. He had thought that through poetry he could achieve everything. Child as he was, he had yet been arrogant enough to jeer and sneer at almost all the poetry of his contemporaries. He was going to invent a new language for poetry; he was going to produce new art forms; the revelations that came when he gave himself to drink and drugs would permit him, as Miss Starkie puts it, to "force himself into eternity," to "force his way into the presence of the Almighty." In *A Season in Hell* he admitted that he had failed to do any of this. He wrote: "I can say now that art is folly." He never wrote again. He took to a life of wandering. In Abyssinia he became trader, gun-runner, slave-dealer, and he was brought home from there to die.

Arthur Rimbaud was born in the small provincial town of Charleville. His father was an Army officer who had risen from the ranks. His mother

turmoil, and it is Miss Starkie's deduction from his writings that a revolting physical experience forced on him there knocked the pin out of his life's balance.

ASSOCIATION WITH VERLAINE

He went back to Charleville after this, arrogant, unruly, a frequenter of the pubs, dirty in his habits. This all points to some mortal shock; and in the midst of it he wrote to Verlaine, whose poetry he admired. There followed Verlaine's invitation to Paris: "Come, beloved great soul. We call you. We await you." And Rimbaud went—to his few years of apotheosis and disintegration. For both of them it was a time of mingled exaltation and despair, of mud and stars. They wandered about together like tramps, now indissoluble, now snarling like dogs. It was in an interval when Rimbaud had left him that Verlaine, on a dismal winter's day, wrote in a room in Howland Street, London, the exquisite poem beginning:

*Il pleut dans mon cœur
Comme il pleut sur la ville.*

The extraordinary association of these two, in all its strength and squalor, is illustrated in this one paragraph: "By July he felt that he could endure it no longer and he decided to leave Paris for a while and to force Verlaine to accompany him. He knew by now that he had sufficient power to influence him. He went out to Montmartre to inform him of his plans and met him in the street, just as he was leaving the house to fetch his wife's medicine from a near-by chemist. At first Verlaine, restrained by scruples, refused to accompany him. 'And my wife?' he asked. But Rimbaud answered brutally: 'To hell with your wife!' Finally Verlaine allowed himself to be persuaded and followed his friend."

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J. J. CONNINGTON AS ESSAYIST

Readers of detective fiction knew the name J. J. Connington well, but not many of them, I imagine, knew that J. J. Connington was the pen-name of A. W. Stewart, D.Sc., a distinguished physicist who had held university posts in London and Glasgow and contributed something to our knowledge of the uncomfortable entity called the atom.

Professor Stewart is dead now, and here is a posthumous work by him called *Alias J. J. Connington* (Hollis and Carter, 15s.). It contains a dozen essays on a great variety of themes: where novelists find their plots, the folly of betting, the effect of drugs on the mind and conduct, the fallibility of evidence, and so forth.

Mathematics, as one might expect, interest the author deeply, and he gives us some surprising figures. No mathematician myself, I can make no comment on them, but merely pass them on with wonder.

For example, dealing with a "Yarborough," which is a whist hand containing no card higher than a nine, he says that Lord Yarborough used to offer 1,000 to 1 against the chance of such a hand being dealt. "The odds look generous enough. Stake £1, and if the next hand is a Yarborough, you pocket £1,000. Actually, though quite unwittingly, Lord Yarborough was putting himself on velvet; for if the odds be calculated mathematically from the theory of probabilities, he should have offered £1,828 to £1 in order to be strictly fair."

Dr. Stewart also tells of a bookmaker "who, by some means or other, had learned that, if there are ten horses in a race, they might come in (apart from dead-heats) in no fewer than 3,628,800 different ways," and adds with an airiness that excites my admiration: "It requires no abstruse knowledge to check this." I shall take his word for it.

A CHECK ON THE ATOM

Almost of necessity, our author has something to say about the atomic bomb, and ends with this comforting paragraph: "Some timorous souls were disturbed by the fear that an incautious scientist might set up an atomic disintegration which might spread from atom to atom" and destroy the world. "We now know that they may sleep quietly in their beds. As has been shown in the foregoing pages, the interposition of a 'moderator' suffices to arrest the chain reaction. . . . Sleep sound. You are not likely to be awakened by the crack of doom." It is immensely cheering, when one is to be shot, to know that, after all, there are such things as safety-catches on rifles.

THE IMPORTANCE OF FESTIVALS

Mr. Laurence Whistler has written a charming book, *The English Festivals* (Heinemann, 12s. 6d.). He is all for festivals, in the old sense of the word. The old sense is largely gone now, for, as he says, the celebrations tend "to degenerate into mere feverish

Bank Holidays." Time was when the observance of festivals gave working people more leisure than they have now. "In 1717 a shrewd politician observed: 'The superstition of their religion obligeth France to keep (at least) fifty Holy Days more than we are obliged to keep; and every such day wherein no work is done is one hundred and twenty thousand pounds loss to this deluded people.'"

We had done better than deluded France. In 1644 Parliament prohibited the keeping of Christmas, and three years later it removed "all festivals or Holy-Days heretofore superstitiously used and observed," granting every second Tuesday of the month for secular entertainment as compensation.

What the old festivals were, what refreshment they brought to the mind and imagination, what are their hopes of survival or revival, this book most excellently examines.

ADVENTUROUS FARMING

ONE of the great adventures of the next few years will be that expansion of British farming for which the resources and tools have now been promised. The circumstances make it an adventure for the old-established farmer, and it certainly will be one for the young man and those who are making a start. The chances that may befall a young farmer, and have indeed befallen one in the past eighteen years, are most interestingly set out in a chronicle, *Three Farms*, by Robert A. Homewood (Latimer, 9s. 6d.). Mr. Homewood's narrative is elaborated from a diary kept since, at the age of 24, he entered his first farm as tenant. It is full of the stuff of adventure—of hopes and fears, disappointments and fresh beginnings, of new hopes and unexpected triumphs. It is spiced, in fact, with all the variety of life. Mr. Homewood writes simply and without effort, and has the knack of seizing the essential. Both on the farm and in the home his characters live as he portrays them. In spite of the setbacks he has encountered, he fervently believes in farming as a satisfying way of life; the disappointments, he declares, leave little bitterness and the rewards "taste so very sweet."

W. E. B.

A BELIEVING OLDSTER

A LARGER public than those who every quarter admire and enjoy the contents of *The Countryman* have learnt something of its veteran founder, J. W. Robertson Scott, since he left his editorial chair in the spring. They may learn a good deal more from *Faith and Works in Fleet Street* (Hodder and Stoughton, 6s.), from which some of *The Countryman's* more recent and uninstructed devotees may be a little surprised to learn how wide are his interests and experience. At a time when the Press is being arraigned before a Royal Commission, Mr. Robertson Scott's virile declaration of faith as a journalist appears most timely. The little volume is addressed "to the True Believers to whom, in C. P. Scott's words, Journalism is 'An Organ of Civilisation' and may be, in Lord Derby's 'Righteousness made Readable,'" and this dedication speaks for itself to any who know the author and his works.

R. J.

The Metropolitan Public Gardens Association, which has done and still does a great service in creating and preserving open spaces in London for public use, is concerned to bring beauty to that and other great cities by promoting the planting of attractive trees and shrubs. To this end it has issued *Planning for Beauty* (4s. 6d.), an illustrated booklet giving information about what sort of trees and shrubs are suitable for different localities, when and how they should be planted and what attention they need.

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FARMING NOTES

AUTUMN

EARLY sown wheat and oats are now showing vivid green in the rows where there has been enough moisture to allow growth. We have had an extraordinarily mild autumn and there has never been any lack of warmth in the ground. Usually at this time of year it is ground frost rather than lack of moisture that checks growth. In the eastern counties the corn has been slow to move and there are indeed many thousands of acres where no sowing has been done because the cloths would not work into any kind of tilth. Despite the appeals for a bigger wheat acreage for next harvest, a good part of which should come from the clay lands, I am afraid that the December 4 returns will show many blanks. No directions to grow wheat have been issued, and, so far as I can gather, in several counties farmers have merely been told to maintain the tillage acreage. Tillage does not in the Ministry's interpretation include leys, even those put down for one year only. But I can find no evidence of committee members pursuing individual farmers by personal visits to ensure that they are ploughing all that they could for next harvest. Probably the shortage of ploughshares and the hardness of the ground made the committee members feel that their time would have been wasted, but excuses, however well justified, will not feed the consumer. If the crops are to be grown, including spring wheat and potatoes in full measure, the committees must get busy without any further loss of time.

Smallholdings

THE new Smallholdings Advisory Committee under the chairmanship of Mr. George Brown, M.P., Joint Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture, has a strong political flavour, including among its membership three Labour M.P.s, an organiser from the National Union of Agricultural Workers and another from the Transport and General Workers Union. To some extent Lord Portsmouth, who is chairman of the Executive Committee of the C.L.A., and Mr. M. J. McClean, vice-president of the N.F.U., may offset this political bias, and I am glad to see that Mr. A. C. Richmond, the vice-chairman of the Land Settlement Association, is also on this Council. No doubt Mr. George Brown and his colleagues will seek to put the best face they can on the proposals for the provision of more smallholdings contained in the Agriculture Act, but it will be many months, probably years, before much progress can be made. When this measure was under discussion in Parliament it was assumed that 5,000 new holdings might be provided in the first five years, and that the necessary payments from the Exchequer might rise by the end of the fifth year to about £300,000 annually. In to-day's circumstances we must expect that even this modest programme will be whittled down.

European Volunteers

A FARMER who is now employing two Latvians comments on the note of mine in the issue of November 14 which suggested that more German prisoners would take up the option to remain here as civilian workers if they were allowed to return home to Germany for a short time and bring their wives and families back here with them. This farmer is very well pleased with his Latvians, one of whom is a married man and naturally enough wants to bring his wife and child over here as soon as he can. Some of the European Volunteer Workers, as these displaced persons are now described, have come over as man and wife and many more would, according to my correspondent, welcome the opportunity to do so. I agree that they should have priority over our enemies, the Germans. Indeed under the "Westward Ho" scheme, 28,000 European Volunteer Workers of whom 20,000 are men, have so far come to this country, from displaced persons' camps in Germany. Over 24,000 of them are working in essential industries, particularly agriculture and textiles, and more are coming in at a rate of 1,000 a week. Incidentally, I am glad to see that the Minister of Labour denies the story that he is importing West Indian labour to work on British farms.

Dispossessed Farmers

SEVERAL individuals who were turned out of their farms in the war years on the score of bad husbandry or failure to carry out directions served by the county committee are now anxious to regain possession of their farms. In many cases these farms taken over by the committees were let to other farmers for "the period of the war and three years afterwards." From a statement made by Mr. Williams in the House of Commons it is clearly the Ministry's view that the committees are entitled to hold this land until December, 1950, as the end of the war is defined by the Government and not by the date of the "Cease Fire" against the Japanese. This decision will be a disappointment

GROWTH

to those who are now agitating, naturally enough, to have their farms returned to them. But it is by no means clear that the individuals who were turned out in the war will ever get their farms back. The county committee has a responsibility in each case to ensure that the land will be farmed to full advantage in the future, and they will need convincing that the man whose husbandry was faulty in 1940 or 1941 has improved his skill and his ways in the meantime. Under the Agriculture Act which Parliament passed earlier this year the Minister can acquire such farms for all time and the land can either be farmed by the Land Commission or sold to someone whose reputation guarantees that the farming will attain a high standard. For the sake of economical administration the Minister will be advised to get these farms back into private hands as soon as possible.

Load-Shedding

WITH mild weather continuing into November and giving the best possible support to the Minister of Fuel's appeal to householders not to use their electric fires between 8 and 10 in the morning or 4 and 6 in the afternoon, farmers have had little taste yet of the load-shedding which in hard weather may seriously interfere with essential operations. Those who use electric milking plants or electric incubators or even glasshouse heating plants can claim preferential treatment where it is impracticable to avoid the use of electricity during the peak hours. Almost all of us finish milking before 8 a.m., and, if it can be arranged without great inconvenience, the electric sterilising equipment, water boilers and steam raisers in dairies should be used only during off-peak hours. Barn machinery such as hammer mills are not generally in use until after breakfast, and where water is pumped by electricity the switch can be left until after breakfast too. In these ways the farmer can help to avoid the necessity for load-shedding in his district, but if he must have preferential treatment and a live line through the twenty-four hours he should talk the matter over at once with the local supply company.

CINCINNATI.

ESTATE MARKET

TYLNEY HALL ESTATE
FETCHES £296,000

ORD ROTHERWICK has sold all the Tylney Hall estate, near Basingstoke, Hampshire, for a total of £296,000, through Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley. The sale began a few months ago, with the sale of the Hall and 90 acres to Middlesex County Council, and it was brought to a successful end by the offer under the hammer of 54 lots, all of which were eagerly bid for at Rotherwick.

The estate area exceeded 3,260 acres, including just over a square mile of matured timber, mainly oak. Four of the lots of woodland, totalling 390 acres, realised £57,000. Substantial sums for growing timber had to be added to the land values in the case of some of the lots; for example, £6,384 to the £35,500 bid for the 412 acres of Tylney home farm; and £2,336 to £11,000, for the 208 acres of Poplars Farm. The farm-houses and buildings, like the rest of the estate, are of the best, and the home farm has long been noted for its attested herd of Guernseys. All the land has been well farmed. Hartley Mill Farm, 159 acres, for £6,750, carried an additional valuation of £939 for timber; Summerstead Farm, 184 acres, made £6,200; White House Farm, 212 acres, went for £7,900, plus £448 for timber; Bunkers Hill Farm, 231 acres, for £8,100, involved the payment of an extra £1,151 for timber; and besides £9,400 for Rooks and Church Farm, £636 had to be paid for the timber.

Among the buyers was the owner of the adjoining estate of Buckfield, who has been thereby enabled to increase its area by about 1,500 acres. Lady Maltby bought the Old Rectory, Rotherwick, for £6,400 and the Rectory paddock, for £1,050. Mr. Alexander C. Siese and Mr. E. S. Osborne conducted the auction, Messrs. Slaughter and May being the solicitors, and the resident agent being Mr. G. R. Shield.

SALE OF ALDWORTH

THE Maharaja (Gaekwar) of Baroda has sold Aldworth, near Haslemere, Surrey, which was for many years the summer retreat of Lord Tennyson. The house stands 720 feet above sea level, on a southern slope of the Blackdown, and it was designed for Tennyson by his friend, Sir James Knowles. Tennyson planned many of the walks on the 70 acres of surrounding woodland.

The Maharaja has made considerable purchases of real estate in the last year or two, including Headley Grove, Walton Heath, Surrey; and, also in 1945, Warren Place, Newmarket, the training establishment. Early in the present year he bought Connellmore, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, 460 acres, for adaptation as a stud farm. In each of these transactions his agents were Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley.

Mr. John Leigh, the occupying owner of New Farm, 843 acres, at South Warnborough, near Odham, a Hampshire hill holding, has sold it through Messrs. Hewett and Lee. The nucleus of the farm, 580 acres with 145 acres of woods, realised £30,500 after keen competition, and the rest, 117 acres of outlying arable, was privately sold, on the eve of the auction, for £3,710, making for the entirety a total of £34,210, including £3,000 for the growing timber.

Other land near Odham, 587 acres of the remaining portion of the once extensive Dogmersfield Park estate, will shortly come under the hammer of Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley and Messrs. Townsend Green and Co. There are woods and a lake of 20 acres.

DEMAND FOR DUNWICH LAND

M R. F. O. G. LLOYD, represented by Mr. Jackson-Stops, who personally conducted the auction, has sold part of the Dunwich estate, Suffolk, for a total of £53,000, including £6,250 for Cliff House and £7,750 for Grey Friars. Special concessions as regards price were granted to the villagers to enable them to acquire their freeholds, and people who attended the auction for the most part refrained from bidding against occupiers.

COAST EROSION

I N his evidence before the Royal Commission on Coast Erosion, in 1906, Mr. W. Whitaker, F.R.S., said that, having heard that miles and miles of Dunwich land had been lost, he was surprised, when he went there some 20 years before 1906 to find that it was only a matter of inches that was being lost. But on a later visit he saw ample proof that erosion had again set in, but comparisons of measurements made by himself with those in an old book on Dunwich seemed to show that in about 108 years the rate of erosion has been for some time only an average of 18 or 19 inches yearly. Apparently, however, erosion had varied greatly in degree, if an extended period was taken into consideration.

Many points along the English coast are losing or, as at Dungeness in Kent, gaining, ground, and at a good many the inward march of the sea has been stayed. Perhaps Dunwich has come to be thought of as a special victim because portions that have been washed away have lent themselves to vivid and picturesque tales of destruction. The whole question of sea defences was to have been examined again in the near future, as it was in 1906, but for the time being matters of more urgency are absorbing official energy.

A WALTON HEATH FREEHOLD

W ALTON OAKS, Walton Heath, Surrey, a house about 600 feet above sea level, with 300 acres, has been sold by Messrs. Hampton and Sons, the negotiations being conducted by Mr. W. H. J. Long. The late Sir Robert Hadfield had a furnished tenancy for some time, and so too had Sir Simon Marks. Walton Oaks was lavishly modernised about 15 years ago

Bonnington, Stanstead Abbotts, near Ware, Hertfordshire, a Queen Anne mansion in 370 acres, including a lake of 7 acres, has been sold by Messrs. Hampton and Sons and Messrs. G. E. Sworder and Sons. Bidding began at £10,000, and a sale was declared at £19,300.

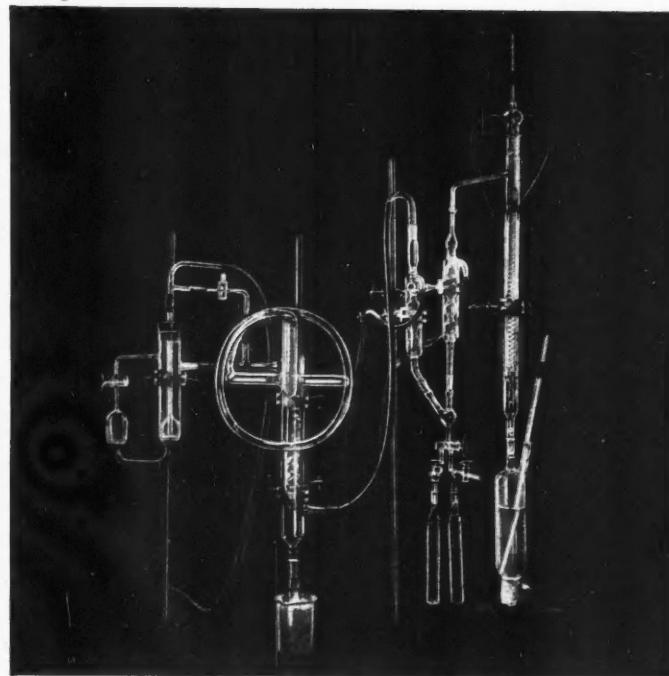
£171,000 STAFFORDSHIRE
SALE

P ART of the Teddesley settled estates, farms and other property, some of it close to Cannock Chase, Staffordshire, in all about 2,562 acres, commanding a gross rental of £4,600 a year has been sold for just over £171,000. The agents were Messrs. Evans and Evans and Messrs. W. S. Bagshaw and Sons.

Captain C. R. D'Ayers Willis has sold Fineshade Abbey, between Kettering and Stamford. The house is in the Italian Renaissance style, and there are 400 acres. The agents were Messrs. Jackson-Stops and Staff and Messrs. Fisher and Co.

NAILSEA COURT, SOMERSET

A FTER being the subject of various rumours Nailsea Court, the ancient Somerset manor, has been entrusted to Messrs. Knight, Frank and Rutley for disposal. ARBITER.



Distillation

Here is a fine example of the glassblower's art. It is a highly efficient fractionating column, used to separate liquids by distillation. The principle of "fractionating" is very simple. Suppose the chemist has a mixture of ether and chloroform and wishes to separate the two. The mixture is placed in a distillation apparatus and heated. It begins to boil at about 35 deg. C.—the boiling point of ether—and consequently it is only the ether that distils over, forming the first "fraction" of distilled liquid. As heating is continued beyond this, the temperature rises and a mixed "fraction" is obtained until at 61 deg. C. only the chloroform distils over. The mixture has been "fractionated". When the boiling points of mixed liquids are very close together, more elaborate equipment is needed to ensure clear-cut fractions. Again, when liquids of very high boiling point are to be fractionated, it is frequently necessary to reduce the pressure. For this purpose the special apparatus shown above is required. Fractional distillation is one of the commonest operations in research, and is a fundamental process in many departments of chemical industry—in the refining of petroleum and tar; in the manufacture of alcohol, solvents and explosives; in the preparation of pharmaceutical chemicals, dyestuffs and perfumes. To take an example, the "high octane" spirit required for the aircraft of the R.A.F. could not be prepared without meticulous fractionation. The British chemical industry is second to none in such technique and in its applications.





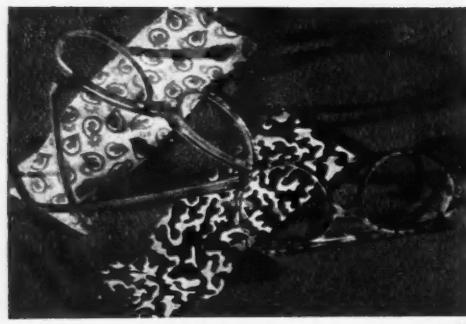
ACCESSORIES are changing their shapes rapidly to keep the balance of the longer skirts and generally softened line of the silhouette and a strategic replacement of details is necessary, as is always the case at the opening of a new period in fashion. Accessories that last for years need buying with especial care if they are to continue to look in the picture with a gradual change in line.

High-heeled slippers are vital unless many of the new dresses are to look dowdy and all the makers are veering away from the wedge-heeled shoes, though they continue to show charming sandals with low heels and ankle straps for the "little girl" frocks with bouncy skirts. The high-heeled sandals with lattice lacing up the leg look very smart with the mid-calf dance frocks, the laces with the circumference of a boot lace. The suède sandal Brevitt call "Mignonette" is becoming to the foot and good for day or evening wear with its medium heel and pretty cross-over front. Court shoes in plain styles with medium heels are shown for tailor-mades, while for bad weather there are fur-lined boots of all heights from some that barely cover the ankle-bone to high Russian affairs with a turn-back of sheepskin, laced ones in coloured suède with a special arrangement of the rubber sole so that no gap is left between the rubber and the suède to let water in.

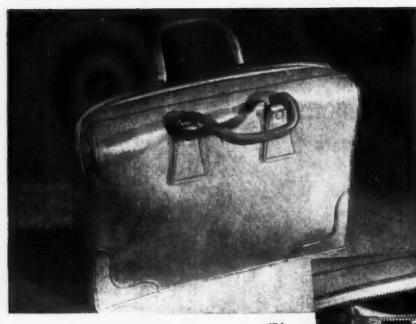
Handbags are meant to be carried in the hand and not slung over the shoulder. In crocodile and pigskin they are medium in size and neat and oblong in shape, for a large bag looks wrong with the elongated silhouette. A new design in an envelope bag is flat and long so that it can be tucked under the arm easily. Afternoon bags in suède are shaped like immense fobs or are high oblongs with wide bands to slip over the arm. There are smaller afternoon bags on stiff frames shaped like a cylinder and gay portmanteau-shaped handbags made from

(Continued on page 1048)

Photographs by COUNTRY LIFE Studio



8



7



6



4



3



1

1.—A Jeanne Paget design of a peaked cloth cap with fur-lined straps that fasten under the chin

2.—Sheepskin boot, dark plum in colour, cut with a thick crepe rubber sole extending over the boot. Edward and Holmes

3.—Handbag in pigskin which stands on its own solid base. There are capacious pockets and a purse inside. Cleghorn

4.—A wedding favour in orchids, berries and variegated ivy leaves in tones of mauve, plum, pale green and ilex green. Constance Spry

5.—Wedding guest's gloves in fine mushroom pink suède ruched and embroidered. Marshall and Snelgrove

6.—Two Brevitts from Pinet. Walking shoe, pointed at the back like Robin Hood's, and fur-lined reversed calf boot with a welted sole and encased heel

7.—Business-man's pigskin brief case, outsize, containing a second zipped brief-case for papers. Cleghorn

8.—Keeler's make glasses in transparent frames to match Moygashel frocks

Designed by the White House

ATTRACTIVE "Barri" maternity ensemble designed by The White House. It is obtainable either in maroon coloured fine wool, trimmed *café au lait*; or in fine navy wool, trimmed white piqué diagonal edging on the cross-over bodice, and tie-collar and cuffs.

Illustrated catalogue of maternity models sent free on request.



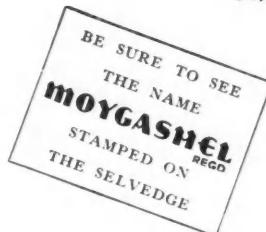
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Who is she?

★ THE WELL-BRED BEAUTY OF A COAT BY HERSHELLE—with gently rounded contours, in a suede-smooth Velour and finished with the soft richness of a black Velvet trim.

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Here's news—two new additions to the "Moygashel" Fabrics family.

These are wool-mixture fabrics which WASH perfectly, in a suit weight called 'Scarborough' and a dress weight 'Harrogate'.

They come in many delightful shades, make up beautifully and are crease-resisting.

'SCARBOROUGH' 7/8 PER YARD

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36" wide, 3 coupons per yard

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DUNNAGH, NORTHERN IRELAND



Slipper in black suède for the ballet-length dress. Brevitt

Persian shawls and plaid tweeds on pigskin frames. Week-end beauty cases with a zip are furnished with containers in crystal and gold metal to take one's favourite preparations, and there are some marvellous small zipped bags and larger suit cases fitted with gold, enamel and tortoiseshell dressing sets to gladden the eye again. Bond Street begins to look like itself again with the windows full of exquisite leather goods and engine-turned gold and silver cigarette cases.

In general, gloves are very plain and short, but fine suèdes are longer, ruched or gauged and embroidered—designed to be worn with furs at winter afternoon functions. Gloves for suits are wrist length, generally with a slit on top of the wrist. They match bags and shoes in colour. For tweeds there are hand-stitched hogskin gloves in white or yellow—an excellent investment as they wash so well. For cold days, lambskin gloves, hand-stitched, are still first favourites, and there are all manner of fur mitts and gloves, including a combination of glove

and mitt with the glove in fleecy wool encased in a lambskin mitt.

THE new squares of Ascher for this winter look like Victorian prints. In fine wool and in vivid cherry, lemon, violet, emerald or cinnamon they have the border printed with a garland of minute pink roses and bright green leaves. Larger squares combine floral border with centres of Persian print. Molyneux shows silk squares in pastel colours or ivory with the centres dotted with tiny flower-heads using the tiny matt flower-heads in the same colour. Large chiffon handkerchiefs for evening have a flower appliquéd in satin on one corner or a true lover's knot inset in lace. Fine French linen handkerchiefs are being imported in limited quantities. These have hand-rolled edges and are white or fancy checks.

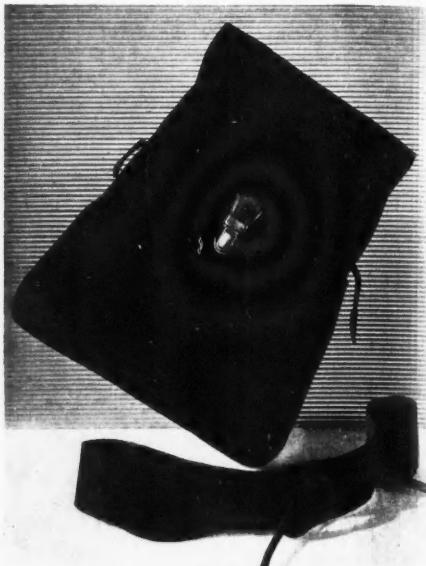
Gadgets for the bags are flowing into the shops in mass formation. I have seen recently a lighter that has the flint in the middle and lights when it is pressed in either end. It is shaped like an oversized cigarette. Another lighter can be strapped on to the wrist and has the flint and wick entirely separate so that it can be struck just like a match. There are tall lighters and squat lighters in every kind of metal and shagreen. Another novelty of the winter is the beauty compact that matches a small cigarette case. Small lipstick brushes in boxes in a white plastic that resembles ivory have the rouge for the lips and skin set in like a paint-box. You brush in the outline of the lips with the rouge and then fill in. The newest hair brushes are round with the bristles set in all round the transparent Perspex handle. The brush is sold in a transparent cylinder.

Petticoats are appearing to cope with the long day skirts, gored, fastened on the waistline and have a tiny frill at the hem. They are made in taffeta and in crêpe; some in satin are quilted for extra warmth.

The day dresses with their full gored skirts

are worn over rustling petticoats and tiny boned Victorian corsets that reduce the waistline. Bertha Rigby is making these corsets in batiste elastic, supple and very strong, and setting in gussets and bones above and below the waistline to curve the outline. On the waistline itself a gap is left in the boning so that the elastic grips without hurting and sometimes the corsets are padded as well. Brassières for the strapless evening frocks are elaborate affairs, often padded over the bustline and boned to the waistline with ruffles of lace and taffeta set in below the waist.

P. JOYCE REYNOLDS.

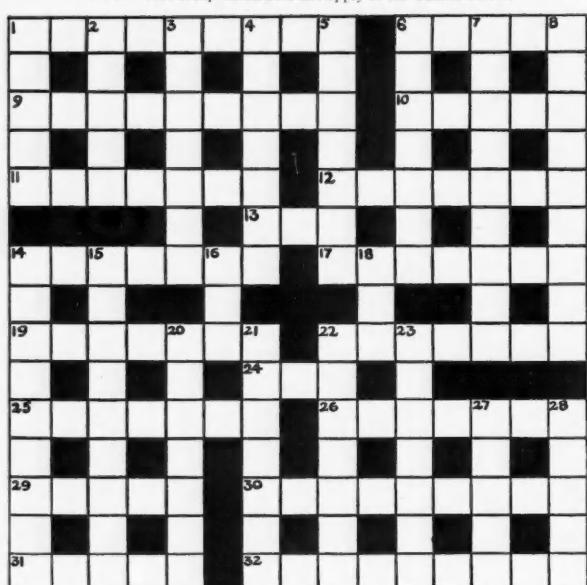


Chocolate-coloured suède afternoon accessories—a high envelope bag and a belt that ties with rolled ribbons of the suède. Rowland Ward

CROSSWORD No. 928

Two guineas will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions (in a closed envelope) must reach "Crossword No. 928, COUNTRY LIFE, 2-10, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2," not later than the **first post on Thursday, November 27, 1947.**

Note.—This Competition does not apply to the United States.



Name
(Mr., Mrs., etc.)
Address

SOLUTION TO No. 927. The winner of this Crossword, the clues of which appeared in the issue of November 14, will be announced next week.

ACROSS.—1, Pretty pass; 6, Puma; 9, Portuguese; 10, Grit; 12, Beetle; 13, Ahmug; 16, Armoury; 18, Titania; 19, Ailment; 21, Ipswich; 22, Amass; 23, Exodus; 27, Coal; 28, Retaliations; 29, Reek; 30, Old England. DOWN.—1, Pipe; 2, Ears; 3, Truce; 4, Poultry; 5, Suspect; 7, Unromantic; 8, Autographs; 11, Wastes; 14, Madagascar; 15, Amalgamate; 17, Uneasy; 20, The bell; 21, Iron age; 24, Using; 25, Stoa; 26, Used.

ACROSS

- 1 and 6, Possibly a hunt for barnacles on the flats (4, 5, 5)
9. Here you would need no clothes coupons to buy one (3, 6)
10. There is no advantage in reaching it (5)
11. Not so mild (7)
12. Dot three "T's" and add 100. What a silly mix-up! (7)
13. This is the way the Romans went (3)
14. For a little quiet smoke in the lab? (7)
17. Signs of Parker's work on the stairs? (7)
19. Don't disturb the gold (7)
22. They have no choice, poor things (7)
24. Namely, Sir Oliver's text (3)
25. In this the h. and c. is not laid on (4, 3)
26. Dull sea (anagr.) (7)
29. No loan? That is not how the musician would interpret it (5)
30. Made fun of (9)
- 31 and 32. If it could breathe, would its breath come in long or short pants? (5, 2, 7)

DOWN

1. "And is not my hostess of the tavern a most sweet —?"—Shakespeare (5)
2. Can high clouds do this? (5)
3. A tall one maybe, but not a black one (4, 3)
4. Note, it might seem mixed verse to one of the Brownings (7)
5. Fields beyond Ely (7)
6. Those taking tea can't bear clubs (7)
7. She got her name from Gaul (9)
8. In the mingling of sexes Eric gets confused. (9)
14. The right curve for a story? (9)
15. By contrast, the future may be easy (4, 5)
16. For Jack or black-jack (3)
18. What Al. put his cap on (3)
20. Apparently, the sentry has the mail with him (7)
21. Prohibition involving the Rome bag (7)
22. Drab end (anagr.) (7)
23. It is to be found in Spain and Central Europe, too (7)
27. What Adam learned to do (5)
28. Taken by the partial (5)

The winner of Crossword No. 926 is

Mrs. E. B. Harrop,
10, Fyfield Road,
Oxford.

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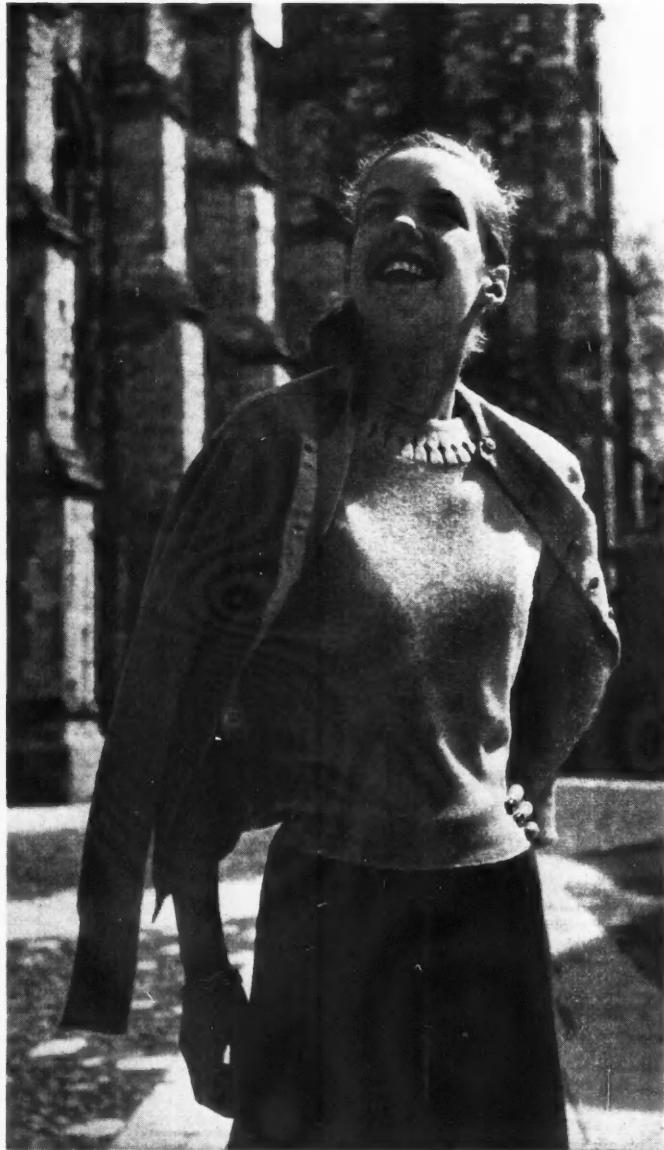
Lady in Black

with an appreciation
 for fine fabrics created
 this Cocktail Dress from
 the beauty of

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 SATIN-BACKED
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beautiful Cashmeres by Pringle

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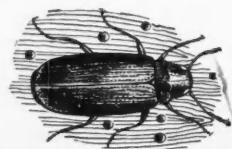
iconette

THE LITTLE BEAUTY IRON
Obtainable at leading stores and chemists

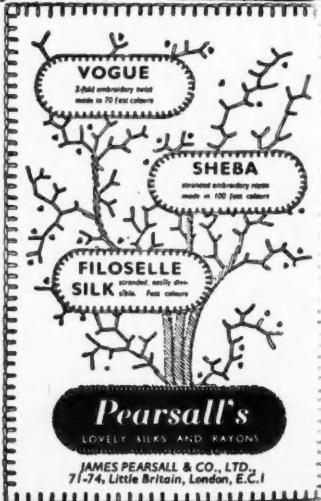
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Bruce Cengrave

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Sandwich filling of thinly sliced cheese, plus a spreading of mashed green peas, and a topping of Yorkshire Relish

Yorkshire Relish

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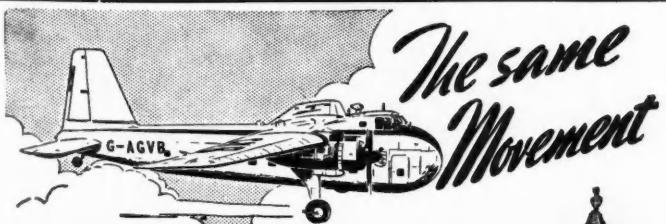


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British Matches
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WORKS:—LONDON, LIVERPOOL, GLASGOW & LEEDS.



The famous Bristol 'Wayfarer' passenger aircraft have, as standard equipment, a Camerer Cuss clock with precisely the same movement as the clock shown here. Air travel, at varying temperatures and heights, imposes severe strains on the accuracy of a clock, but you'll always find accurate time on the 'Wayfarer'. Clock shown is in 'Oyster-shell' Yew veneered case. Similar reproduction cases can be had in Mahogany or Walnut, also hand-painted or lacquered. Traditional brass dial; silvered hour ring. Prices from £30

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DHB

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N.B.—We do NOT employ collectors



'Ingenuity' is required if the gin runs out. But Votrix is a good mixer, so try a 'Votrix Royal' Cocktail for a change.

Here's the recipe: —

1 Votrix Dry

1 South African Dry Sherry

Dash of Orange Bitters

Stir well, strain into a cocktail glass and squeeze a twist of lemon or orange peel on the drink.



Votrix GENUINE VERMOUTH

SWEET OR DRY

CONNOISSEUR

in search of

A Frenchman who liked to eat well once wanted a new cook. He tried three or four but, dissatisfied, sent them each away at the end of a month. Then came a treasure—every day during the month she gave him potatoes cooked a different way. She got the job.

Variety is a good thing in cooking. You may not wish to go as far as all this, but do try a new dish now and then. And do remember to add a little Bovril. There's nothing to equal Bovril for the good beef flavour that makes savoury cooking successful.



ONION - APPLES

When there's to be pork or sausages for dinner, here's an idea for an unusual 'vegetable' to go with them. Allow one large tart apple for each person, core and stuff it. For the stuffing, use 1 tablespoon breadcrumbs, and 1 tablespoon minced onion for each apple. Mix onion and breadcrumbs, season and moisten well with Bovril stock (1 teaspoon Bovril in $\frac{1}{2}$ cup hot water should be enough for 4 apples). Put stuffed apples in tin, dot with a little dripping and bake until soft.

*A little
BOVRIL
adds the concentrated goodness of Beef*

WANTED · A PINT OF STOCK

So many recipes call for stock—and in these days of small joints, so few of us keep a stock pot. But rich beefy stock can be made in a jiffy, this way. Stir 2 teaspoons Bovril into a pint of hot water, add $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon sugar, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt and a small teaspoon vinegar. Mix well, add a bay leaf if you like—and there's your stock, full of flavour and goodness.

SAVOURY RIBBON ROLL

Well mix 1 lb. sausage meat or minced beef (uncooked) with 1 beaten or reconstituted egg, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mixed onion, 1 small cup breadcrumbs, 1 teaspoon Bovril, salt and pepper. Sprinkle pastry board with breadcrumbs and roll mixture out thin. Brown $\frac{1}{2}$ cup minced onion in a little hot fat, add 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups cooked chopped carrots, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt. Spread carrot mixture on meat mixture and roll up, like a Swiss roll. Bake in moderate oven one hour.

